



# Kensington & Chelsea NEWS

**LWN**

LONDON WEEKLY NEWS GROUP

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Thursday, June 4th 2015

## TRAFFIC NIGHTMARE PREDICTED

# New luxury flats will 'cause chaos'

HOME building in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea which will bring more than 500 millionaire new neighbours to the area will also cause a new traffic hell – with up to 400 HGV journeys per week on the roads of West London.

The massive and controversial Earls Court development is set to dramatically increase congestion, gridlock and pollution for West Londoners – which will last for the next six years.

The high-rise development for super-rich incomers on and around the Exhibition Centre site is going to spell traffic misery for residents of the borough.

Opponents of the development say up to 10 builders' lorries per hour will be travelling around Earls Court, the Cromwell Road and Old Brompton Road.

Over the six years that it will take to construct Sir Terry Farrell's "masterplan" to build 8,000 super-homes on the Exhibition Centre site, borough residents will have to endure a "roadfall" of an extra 120,000 HGV journeys through the area.

The new traffic nightmare has been highlighted by the Save Earls Court Campaign.

The campaign group's chairman, Kensington and Chelsea councillor Linda Wade (pictured), said: "The Earls Court and Warwick Road junctions with the

● By LWN reporter  
**GEOFF BAKER**

Cromwell Road are already some of the most-polluted in Europe, and yet the Demolition and Waste Management Plans approved as introduced roads into the demolition and construction route planning – that were not consulted on beforehand



– will permit five to ten HGV lorries per hour along the Earls Court one-way system and onto Old Brompton Road, creating congestion, gridlock and pollution.

"Noise and vibration are other issues that are proving to be a concern. I am looking into the impact of the sustained noise of the construction work over what will be a six-year period for some of these residents."

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**INSIDE THE  
ROYAL BOROUGH'S  
FREE WEEKLY**



**Welcome to the  
world's greatest  
birthday party**

– see pages 13, 14 and 15

**Diane  
honoured  
after 50  
years at  
Queens  
Gate  
Gardens**

– see page 3



## We really love our market!

**LIFELONG** Portobello trader Dolly Stallard was accorded celebrity status when the market celebrated its 150th anniversary on Saturday.

Dolly, who is 90 years old in July, was invited to cut a special 150th anniversary cake, watched by the new Mayor of The Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea, Cllr Robert Freeman.

Coinciding with the "We Love Our Market" celebrations, a day of events was staged for the anniversary including a vintage bike display and there were a number of special offers by traders and stallholders in and around the Portobello and Golborne market.

Also present at the celebration were the newly elected MP for Kensington, Victoria Borwick, and the Leader of Kensington and Chelsea Council, Cllr Nick Paget-Brown.

A year-long programme of events to celebrate the anniversary is being organised



Photo by Cheryl Prax

by the Portobello & Golbourne Management Committee, led by chairman Mark Barr, with support from the council. Full photo feature in next week's LWN.



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## CAPITAL'S ENTREPRENEURS OFFERED ONLINE SECURITY MASTERCLASS

# Help for small firms to stay cyber safe

**T**HE Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime, along with the Federation of Small Businesses, are running a series of free masterclasses to help the capital's small and medium sized businesses buff up on cyber security.

The sessions are part of the Mayor's Business Strategy, central to which is setting up an independent London Digital Security Centre which is due to launch later this year.

Around 60 per cent of small businesses have limited or zero awareness of current scams or vulnerabilities affecting London, according to recent research from the FSB.

The first event, on Tuesday 26th May at City Hall, included advice on law enforcement and mobile security, and an introduction to the London Digital Security Centre concept. It also invited former hackers to attempt to breach the security of willing business participants. These so called 'ethical hackers' are 'poachers turned gamekeepers' and can demonstrate how imperative it is for London's businesses to make their web space safe and secure.



FROM THE  
MAYOR'S  
OFFICE

Security Centre, which will provide a one-stop shop to help small and medium sized businesses get online savvy, build up their resilience, and pro-

tect themselves from these sorts of crimes." Stephen Greenhalgh, the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, said: "The cyber and digital security of London's businesses, especially smaller enterprises and entrepreneurial start-ups, is something we take extremely seriously."

"We want every London business to be able to afford the necessary protection and security from these often invisible but potentially devastating threats. That is why we're developing the new London Digital

Security Centre, which will provide a one-stop shop to help small and medium sized businesses get online savvy, build up their resilience, and pro-

tect themselves from these sorts of crimes." Nine in ten (88 per cent) FSB members in the capital believe that small businesses should be offered free or low-cost external test services to see how easy it is for hackers to access their information – which could save the insurance industry millions in fraud and online crime.

Commenting on the findings, Steve Warwick, FSB London Regional Chair, said: "Many small businesses are recognising the advantages of cloud computing services, but there remains a great deal of concern that sensitive data may not be secure or the service not reliable. Businesses don't want to transition to cloud-based systems without knowing who will be liable if something goes wrong. These masterclasses will enable small businesses in London to be more digitally secure and also save their business time and money to get on with running the business without fearing a cyber threat."

Details on future cyber security events for businesses will be made available at: [www.fsb.org.uk/london/fsb-events-calendar](http://www.fsb.org.uk/london/fsb-events-calendar)

The London Digital Security Centre will provide resource to offer business education, secu-

ity and business resilience skills to help businesses better protect themselves from threats, both online and in the physical environment. It will offer simple, accessible and jargon free information to all sizes of business. The model for the LDSC has been built around the Scottish Business Resilience Centre and the Director of SBRC, Mandy Haeburn-Little, is helping London establish a similar model for the capital. For more information visit: [www.london.gov.uk/priorities/policing-crime/our-work/business-cr...](http://www.london.gov.uk/priorities/policing-crime/our-work/business-cr...)

■ The FSB is the UK's leading business organisation with around 200,000 members. It exists to protect and promote the interests of the UK's entrepreneurs who run their own business. More information is available at [www.fsb.org.uk](http://www.fsb.org.uk) and follow on twitter @fsb\_policy

The survey of 50 London businesses took place between February and March 2015. More than half (55%) of FSB members in London are using the Cloud. When asked whether small businesses felt confident using social media channels such as Twitter, facebook and LinkedIn from a privacy perspective – 52% answered either 'unsure' or 'not at all'.



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CHAIRMAN

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JOINT MANAGING DIRECTORS

**Karen Sheppard**

0208 768 4903

**Philip Evans (Editor)**

07796 951991

**Editorial Email:**

[editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk](mailto:editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk)

News Editor Geoff Baker 07864 992274

Reporter Jack Dixon 07973 565078

Sport - Tony MacDonald 07711 169427

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## ● RIVAL GROUPS WILL CLASH AT CHELSEA TOWN HALL PUBLIC MEETING

# New group backing for King's Road Crossrail

A NEW group has surfaced in Chelsea to oppose campaigners fighting to stop the Crossrail2 station in the King's Road.

Following the recent formation of the Chelsea Residents' Association to fight plans to build a Crossrail station on the fire station site, The Crossrail Informal Supporters' Team (CRIST) has sprung up to fight them.

Both groups are expected to come head-to-head at a Crossrail Chelsea meeting this Tuesday (June 2nd) at Chelsea Town Hall, timed to kick off at 6.30 pm.

Leonard Holdsworth, the spokesman for CRIST, accused the anti-Crossrail campaigners of "snobbery" and said the fire station is "a blot on the landscape".

"There are many long-standing Chelsea residents who are strongly in favour of Crossrail 2," said Mr Holdsworth, a committee member of the Chelsea Society.

"We welcome any improvement to local public

**By Geoff Baker**

transport – you simply look at the perpetual traffic jams in King's Road to know these are needed.

"Of course, Crossrail 2 won't be serving the rich so much as poorer people in London who are needing affordable travel, but at least Crossrail will convey your servants to Chelsea from far afield better than now."

He added: "We are reminded of those who opposed the building of all London's Underground railways – we'd probably have no Sloane Square or South Kensington Stations if protests like the current one had won.

"The trains planned are of similar dimensions to District Line trains but a bit longer – but anybody who has travelled on the District Line in rush hour, unlike the wealthy Crossrail protestors, knows that we could do with another carriage or two.

"The current architecture around the proposed sta-

tion is of little merit and could be replaced by something far better. The Fire Station, for example, is a blot on the landscape."

The Chelsea Residents' Association is protesting that building the Crossrail2 station would take "about eight years" and it says it would cause "enormous traffic congestion and disruption" in the area and would introduce fast food outlets causing "a disruptive night-time economy".

### Not a 'rustic enclave'

But CRIST claims fears of the building working are exaggerated.

"Chelsea is not a rustic enclave, it is an inner London borough and as far as construction is concerned, protesters exaggerate the disruption – and you can't make an omelette without breaking eggs," said Mr Holdsworth.

"Of course nearby residents might be unhappy about the inconvenience, for instance the Dovehouse Street residents, but we all have to live with basement con-

struction all over the borough.

"As far as large chain stores and fast food outlets coming to King's Road have protesters spotted that King's Road is currently dying on its feet? It desperately needs to be revitalized before it becomes overwhelmed by empty premises.

"This protest seems to exude snobbery and one is reminded of an early public meeting to discuss Crossrail when somebody stood up and said, 'Did we really need a station in Chelsea bringing in dreadful people from places like Hackney?'

"To which the chairman amusingly replied that perhaps we could have a King's Road station where you could get on trains but nobody could get off!"

**For more information on the Crossrail Informal Supporters' Team contact**

**leonard.holdsworth@bopenworld.com. For more information on the Chelsea Residents' Association contact gwhytaylor@yahoo.co.uk**

## Diane's reward for 50 years of service at Queens Gate Gardens

**KENSINGTON** resident Diane Parnell was honoured for her half-century as a caretaker at 50-51 Queens Gate Gardens when the residents' association presented her with an engraved silver salver and flowers.

Among those celebrating the occasion was decorator Annabel Elliot (pictured with Diane) sister of Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, who arrived in the building even before Mrs Parnell, as a teenager in 1962.

In her 50 years' in the building Mrs Parnell has seen a lot and was able to regale guests with tales of her early days when the communal boilers had to be filled and stoked day and night. "It was jolly hard work," she said.

She was once mugged by burglars – "I could see a string of pearls hanging out of one of the men's bags, which tipped me off as to what they were up to," – and another time had to sort out a group of over-exuberant young men in a flat. "One said to me, 'do you know who I am?', and I said 'I don't care who you are, you get out now!'"

In addition to her role as a caretaker, Mrs Parnell also works with the Girl Guides and is on the committee for Queens Gate Gardens.



## Living Buddha's visit to the Royal Borough

GREAT Master Chin Kung, a Chinese Buddhist monk with 80 million followers worldwide, was the guest of honour at a special conference in the Kensington and Chelsea Council Chamber on Monday.

This is the first visit to Britain by Great Master Chin, 89, who is regarded by his adherents as a Living Buddha.

Originally from Hong Kong and now resident in Australia, he was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia by the Queen in 2005 for his work to promote Buddhist education and understanding between different faith groups.

The Great Master (pictured) took the decision to visit Britain because of his concern about the growth of religious extremism worldwide and his desire to learn more about this country's record of good relationships between people of different religions and beliefs.

The conference was attended by 120 London-based religious and community leaders and young people of different faiths, and addressed by the Great Master, the Mayor of the Royal Borough, Cllr Robert Freeman, and religious leaders.

The audience included diplomatic representatives of a number of countries. The Chief of Mission of the Nepalese Embassy joined the Great Master in leading a minute's silence for all those who lost their lives in the recent earthquakes.

The conference had a strong youth education focus and featured presentations by young people of many different backgrounds from schools all over London on their multi-faith art, football and citizenship projects undertaken as part of Project Unity – a new initiative of The Unity of Faiths Foundation which has as its theme "What does Unity mean to young Britain?"

Great Master Chin said: "We live in troubled times, but those who would do harm in the name of misinterpreted or twisted religion are greatly outnumbered by people for whom religion is a source not of hatred and violence but of peace, comfort and good acts. We people of goodwill must ensure that our voice is the louder one, and that our young people choose the correct path."



Anna Prior and Dr Shamender Talwar, Founders of The Unity of Faiths Foundation (TUFF), said: "We are so pleased that The Unity of Faiths Foundation has been able to facilitate Great Master Chin Kung's visit at this historic event, following our success last year with the Shaolin Cultural 12 Zodiac Festival and our endorsement by President Barack Obama. Our charity exists to promote unity within diversity and that is exactly the message of this remarkable spiritual leader. It has never been more relevant."

● Great Master Chin Kung is a Buddhist monk from the Mahayana tradition. He is the founder of the Corporate Body of the Buddha Educational Foundation, an organisation based on the teachings of Pure Land Buddhism. Originally from Hong Kong and now resident in Australia, Chin Kung has made it his life's work to use Buddhist teachings to bridge gaps and reconcile misunderstandings between different religious and ethnic groups, especially in Asia and Australia. In recognition of his achievements he has received several international awards and honours, including being granted the Order of Australia by HM the Queen in 2005.

## Earls Court centre closure 'hitting business'

### ■ FROM PAGE ONE

Councillor Wade said there were also fears for the existing businesses and the strain on public transport in the area.

"The loss of the Exhibition Centre has had a detrimental impact on the local businesses such as the hotels and bars that had over many years started up to respond to the needs of the exhibition trade and in turn supplied a diversity and vibrancy to residents.

"The new plans to incorporate Covent Garden-like shops as a replacement for the cultural activities of the Exhibition Centre will never generate the footfall required to support businesses and will further undermine the businesses that are struggling along Earls Court Road.

"Although Earls Court has seen an enormous increase in estate agents over the last year, most of the sales have been off-plan in

the Far East, Singapore and Hong Kong, which must raise the issue of where does all this money come from?

"As each restaurant or local business is closing, another large chain of estate agents emerges, sometimes disguised – the new art gallery is in fact owned by an estate agent.

"The increased footfall from the development into Earls Court Station is also something that alarms travellers who use the station daily.

### Increased safety

The re-opening of the tunnel from the site to the station will increase the capacity of access to the station without increase the capacity of the station to absorb them. The increase of approximately 35,000 residents and workers is not going to increase safety for travellers."

Some 760 council homes on the site are to be flattened to make way for the new devel-

opment. Residents will be offered replacement homes within the £8 billion scheme, where they will have the best of neighbours – for more than 500 millionaires will be moving in.

"The 530 high-value buildings are apparently starting at £4.5 million, with a combination of town houses and dual-aspect super-prime-sized apartments," said Councillor Wade.

To afford a £4.5 million home on a minimum deposit of 5%, a buyer would have to put down £225,000 for a 25-year mortgage with repayments of £20,269 per month.

The Earls Court development will be built in parcels. The upfront sale of the first 237 homes on the Lillie Square site was launched last year at an average price per square foot of £1,500. The Financial Times reported that half of the buyers were foreign.

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email [editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk](mailto:editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk)

# Dazzling programme at Intransit festival

A DAZZLING programme of theatre, dance, art and music will take over the streets and iconic buildings of Kensington and Chelsea this summer with the return of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea's InTRANSIT Festival (June 9th to 28th).

Curated and produced by O'Neill/Ross, the festival reflects the rise of site-responsive art in the UK emerging over the past nine years as an innovative platform for experimentation and new collaborations in art and performance.

This year's highlights include MOBO and BAFTA award-winning hip-hop artist, 'Akala' performing the first ever site-specific adaptation of his graphic novel *The Ruins of Empires* in the intimate surroundings of The Dissenters Chapel, Kensal Green Cemetery; the

## By LWN reporter

legendary birdmen of Mexico soaring through the air suspended on ropes from a 20-metre pole erected in Emslie Horniman's Pleasance; an urban beach under the Westway Flyover to mark the 50th anniversary of the National Trust Neptune Coastline Campaign and a Pop-Up Art School in Powis Square, where visitors can collaborate with artists and architects – part of the London Festival of Architecture.

InTRANSIT Festival celebrates space and challenges the role of audiences by putting local residents at the heart of art commissioning. Using the rich array of public spaces, architectural treasures and world-class arts organisations based within the borough, this ten-day festival presents over 20 different productions and installations that are guaranteed to excite, challenge and surprise.

After the success of the InTRANSIT Festival 2014, production and design team O'Neill/Ross return to curate this year's festival. They have hand-picked all the artists involved and have worked with them to realise their productions that explore themes of paradise on earth and utopias and realities.

The council's Cabinet Member for Arts, Councillor Timothy Coleridge, said: "This year InTRANSIT Festival promises something for everyone, from the sheer spectacle of Voladores to more intimate artist walks, and the chance for everyone to go to art school. Residents and visitors alike can enjoy a diverse programme of contemporary arts and culture, music and performance. I hope as many people as possible will go along to enjoy the festival and take advantage of the many events being free."

O'Neill/Ross said: "Historical resident of the bor-

ough, Oscar Wilde wrote that "progress is the realisation of utopias". Whether your idea of paradise is wild or constructed, the story of utopia in the urban landscape is undoubtedly one of cultivation; humans striving to construct and put in place some reality that they deem to be an improvement on the current situation. It is always a pleasure working with the Royal Borough's Arts Service to present so many artists as they respond variedly to the idea of utopia, and all the beauty and folly that attends our struggle for a world beyond our own."

Copies of the festival programme can be picked up locally from Kensington and Chelsea libraries, the town halls, and local arts venues including The Tabernacle and Chelsea Theatre.

To find out more about the 2015 InTRANSIT Festival programme go to [www.intransitfestival.co.uk](http://www.intransitfestival.co.uk)

## Model Yachting Race on The Round Pond

THE Model Yacht Sailing Association (MYSA) hosted the Metropolitan and Southern District Championship at The Round Pond in Kensington Gardens.

The event brought some of the most competitive model yacht skippers from the south east to central London and spectators enjoyed some thrilling racing action.

Twelve Ten Rater yachts, among the largest and most graceful of model yachts, were on the water on the Sunday morning, competing in a moderate northerly wind with lots of shifts and large "holes", testing all the skippers' skills.

It was soon clear that former world champion Graham Bantock and Peter Wiles, a former national champion were to be the men to beat. As the day progressed, Graham Bantock took hold of the event, harried by Peter Wiles with Hugh McAdoo close behind, and this was to be the final order.

Charlie Clarke, MYSA Race Officer said: "We were delighted to attract some of the most competi-

tive skippers from all over the country to this event and look forward to hosting future races here in the heart of London."

The MYSA is the oldest model yacht club in the country – it was established in 1876, and it continues the rich history of model yacht sailing in London's Royal Parks.

Thomas Deinet, the Commodore of the MYSA said: "The Round Pond in front of Kensington Palace is a fantastic venue for model boating, a great hobby for young and old."

A further event, with International One Metre yachts and MicroMagics is planned for Saturday 30th May, where there may be an opportunity for members of the public to sail a MicroMagic, weather permitting.

The MYSA members meet every Sunday at 10:30 am. More information is available on our website at [www.mysa.org.uk](http://www.mysa.org.uk).

New members are always welcome.

## We want to hear from you...

It's not just the big stories that happen in London that we want to hear about. There's a brilliant community spirit in Central and West London. If you help to run a local organisation make sure your events are featured in our newspapers.

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## NEWS FROM NICK ...

with Nicholas Paget-Brown,  
Leader of the Royal Borough  
of Kensington and Chelsea

## Mercifully, I did not have to take a penalty!

**L**EADERS of councils up and down the country are often asked to open things. In the main it's one of the most pleasurable aspects of the job. Grand openings are often the culmination of many years work, involving many people both inside and outside the council.

I attended such an opening this week. I can now admit that although I was very excited about the prospect I also had a touch of fear!

The opening of the brand new all-weather pitch just behind Hazlewood Tower wasn't just going to be a ribbon cutting ceremony, something I'm particularly good at, but I was going to have to take the inaugural penalty, in front of a crowd – something that began to bring me out in a cold sweat!

But those fears aside this was a date in my diary that I was looking forward to immensely.

About a year ago I was rather successfully lobbied by young Zak Ellis Khan, a member of the Children's TMO, who thought we should resurface the pitch on the Appleford Estate. Well his pitch worked if you will excuse the pun. The £75,000 funding has come through a grant from the Council's Public Health service and it's going to be money well

spent. We want lots of young people to use this pitch for all sorts of reasons that most readers will be familiar with. We want to help tackle obesity in the young, get inactive children out and about, involved in sport and having fun. We also want to see adults trying out their skills – and there will be programmes to ensure they can, especially those who may be more isolated.

### Expert help

There is going to be some very expert help on hand to work with the young people in the shape of Chelsea Football Club Foundation. Their coaches will run sessions to help develop skills and get more girls involved.

So now we have an excellent new facility up and running in the heart of Golborne in North Kensington. I thoroughly enjoyed meeting everyone who attended the opening

ceremony and thankfully, perhaps even mercifully, I didn't have to demonstrate my penalty taking technique. I've already launched an internal inquiry into who misled me there!

But I wonder just what would have happened had I been called upon to step up and take a vital penalty? Would I have scored? Which side would I put the ball? Well that's an easy one – to the 'keeper's right of course – but not too far!



To contact the Leader of the Council, Cllr Nick Paget-Brown, email [theleader@rbkc.gov.uk](mailto:theleader@rbkc.gov.uk)



# Tessa vows to tackle capital homes 'crisis'

LONDON'S homes crisis has become so critical that if current trends continue 80 per cent of Londoners will soon not own their own home.

That is the dire warning from Dame Tessa Jowell, pictured, the former Labour MP and London Olympics champion now tipped by the bookies as the favourite to become the next Mayor.

Dame Tessa, listed as 5/2 favourite to replace Boris Johnson as Mayor in May next year, is vowing that if elected she



● By LWN reporter  
**GEOFF BAKER**

will launch the most ambitious home-building and jobs creation scheme that the capital has seen in decades.

She is warning that drastic and immediate action is essential in order to stop a looming doomsday future in which eight in every ten Londoners never own their own home.

"There are 200,000 fewer Londoners owning their home with a mortgage than 10 years ago," said Dame Tessa. If current trends continue, less than 20 per cent of Londoners will own with a mortgage by 2024."

For young home-hunters the future looks bleak. Experts are predicting that the current house price boom will continue for at least another 10 years. Last week

Taylor Wimpey director Mike Hussey told a builders' conference "a 15-year property boom, with no bust, is more than a distinct possibility".

He added: "We are partway through, but only a small way through, a boom in property that I think will exist for at least 15 years – by which I mean 2010 to 2025. In London, I think we won't see a cyclical downturn for a generation."

In launching her drive to become Mayor, Dame Tessa said that young Londoners feel that they are being banished from their own home town.

"In almost every London borough, an individual on the average wage would need to save for at least 10 years to get a deposit for a home," she said. "In almost half the boroughs, it would take more than 15 years, and in Kensington and Chelsea it would take 32 years."

"I've heard from young Londoners, born and raised here, whose wages won't stretch to renting or buying and who feel they're being exiled from their own city."

To combat the housing nightmare, Dame Tessa proposes setting up a Transport for London-like body, Homes For Londoners, and will establish 'rent to buy' as a whole new sector in the market, giving home-seekers the opportunity to buy a house without needing an upfront deposit.

"I will introduce a major new programme to significantly expand rent to buy, creating a new option for young Londoners who can afford to pay for a home but can't afford to pay a deposit," she said.

"I will do this by prioritising the building of rent to buy properties through my Homes For Londoners scheme and using my planning powers to require affordable home ownership."



■ **FAMILIE TIES: Soho Hobo Tim Arnold with Paul Raymond's granddaughter Fawn**

## Song for Paul cements 60-year link between Soho showbiz families

A 60-year link between two of Soho's oldest showbiz families will be celebrated this week with the release of a single in tribute to the legendary strip star Paul Raymond.

The single, "The King Of Soho", is being released by the Square Mile's favourite singer-songwriter Tim Arnold, best known as The Soho Hobo.

The song is taken from Tim's eagerly-anticipated album, "The Soho Hobo", due for release on August 10th.

"The King of Soho is my tribute to the late great Paul Raymond whose life became synonymous with so much of what Soho stands for; sex, money and entertainment," said Tim.

"It's also an affectionate nod to our two families, who go way back together. My grandfather, Dickie Arnold, was actor-manager for Paul Raymond's revue – he actually stood in the witness box in defence of Raymond's Revue Bar in the late 50s – and my Mum Gillian, better known as the actress and 60s pop star Polly Perkins, was a Windmill Girl."

## 'No value' in garden bridge says mayoral candidate

THE £175 million Garden Bridge between Temple and the South Bank will "serve no function" and "is neither a garden or a bridge", according to Labour mayoral candidate Christian Wolmar.

The transport journalist, who is confident that he will make the shortlist for the Labour Party's mayoral primary in August, slammed the much-vaunted bridge – originally conceived by actress Joanna Lumley – as "a project with no transport value whatsoever".

Wolmar is the first and so far only candidate in a crowded field to oppose the construction of Lumley's "floating paradise garden", for which he says there "is no clear business plan".

He said: "If you look at the strategic plan devised by TfL – it's back to front. The attitude is 'there's this bridge happening, let's make a business case for it' not 'what bridges do we need across London?'"

Current mayor Boris Johnson was in March accused of "misleading Londoners" over promises that the "glitzy vanity project" would not be funded from the private purse.

And Wolmar, who says he would pedestrianise Oxford Street, added to increasing public criticism of Johnson's handling of the project – saying that "it all smacks of somebody's personal grand project".

A full judicial review of the Garden Bridge has since been granted after both the Mayor and the Chancellor, George Osborne, each pledged £30 million for its construction. Planning permission for the

by Patrick Maguire

scheme was conditional on Transport for London underwriting £3.5 million's worth of annual maintenance costs in perpetuity – dwarfing the one-off "enabling payment" of £4 million announced by TfL commissioner Peter Hendy in 2013.

Wolmar said building a new tourist attraction at the already crowded South Bank would be "absolutely ludicrous" and questioned whether it would see any meaningful use.

The 65-year-old said: "Why is £30 million of Transport for London – the clue is in the name, Transport – money being spent on a project that has no transport value whatsoever?"

### Tourists

"I don't think it'll be used by anybody for transport, because if it is really going to be as crowded with tourists as they say it will be, you'll have to push through crowds – you'd rather take a bus or walk over Waterloo Bridge."

He added: "If you want a Garden Bridge like that, by all means put it in Kew or somewhere, not in a very crowded part of London."

"There's enough tourist attractions there already – there's the Eye, there's all the stuff in the old County Hall, the Tate – there's enough to attract as many people as you want."

Wolmar drew a contrast between the Garden Bridge and Wandsworth Council's proposed footbridge from Pimlico to Nine Elms.

Praising a "beautiful" set of designs, he said: "I've got no

objections to a new bridge for Pimlico whatsoever – it's functional, it's for cyclists and walkers, whereas the so-called Garden Bridge serves no function".

The author suggested that he would spend the £30 million pledged for the bridge by TfL in local communities instead.

"If I had £30 million pounds to spend on greening London, I'd say we give a thousand pounds to thirty thousand streets – get residents' associations across London to plant a few trees."

"My whole campaign is about a London for Londoners – this isn't about Londoners."

Nominations by constituency Labour parties for the mayoral candidacy close on June 10th, with Wolmar currently three short of the five required.

Though he faces an uphill struggle against big-hitters from the Blair and Brown years – former Olympics Minister Dame Tessa Jowell currently leads the pack with 31 nominations – the diehard QPR fan said that "anything can happen".

"I'm feeling very confident I'll get onto the shortlist. I'm on the map, I've got a couple of nominations... I'm confident I'll get the three more I need."

Labour's candidate will be announced on September 13th – the day after the party reveals its new leader.

Potential Tory candidates for next May's poll include former England footballer Sol Campbell, and maverick Respect leader George Galloway has also thrown his hat into the ring.

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# Never mind the rain, stars say



■ PRETTY IN PINK: Actress Joanna Lumley puts on a show.

Words by Jackie Evans  
Photos by Richard Austin

THE plants may have been the stars at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show but they had hot competition from the large number of celebrities who turned out to see and be seen at the event.

The skies may have been raining but the atmosphere was anything but grey as well known faces from the world of film, television and newspapers stepped out among the blooms.

Joe Swift and Sophie Raworth were the mainstay of the BBC's daytime coverage of the event. Veteran broadcaster Anne Diamond was also working at the show but Alan Titchmarsh, sadly now missing from the BBC coverage was just visiting.



■ LEADING LADY : Actress Brenda Blethyn.



■ STUDIOUS: Floella Benjamin.



■ EXPERT ADVICE: Broadcaster Alan Titchmarsh.



■ STRICTLY VIEWING: Dancer Brendan Cole and wife Zoe Hobbs.



■ UNDER COVER: Christopher Biggins dodges the showers.



■ HEADLINE NEWS: Piers Morgan.



■ STUNNING DISPLAY : Designer Kelly Hoppen.



# that was a brolly good show



■ GARDEN BIRD: Actress Lesley Joseph.



■ GARDEN DELIGHT: Cerys Matthews.



■ SIGN HERE: Bill Bailey meets a fan.



■ WEATHER WATCH: Gardening broadcaster Joe Swift and newsreader Sophie Raworth.



■ ANY GARDENING QUESTIONS? Game show host Nicholas Parsons.



■ STAR TURN: Nigel Havers and wife Georgina Bronfman.



■ TALKING GARDENS: Judith Chalmers.



■ ANIMATED: Anneka Rice.



■ ICE COOL: Jayne Torvill.



■ ON AIR: Anne Diamond.



# A good reason why our council's talking rubbish

WESTMINSTER City Council has teamed up with a new charity to tackle the growing problem of litter on our streets.

The authority is working with Hubbub, which involves people in sustainability issues, to launch the initiative, called Neat Streets.

There will be a series of interactive installations and exhibitions over the summer in Villiers Street, near Charing Cross railway station, that will trial new ways of encouraging people not to litter.

New research by Populus shows that the public believe littering is getting worse: 51 per cent think more people drop litter now than did so 10 years ago – while only 21 per cent think it has improved.

To tackle littering, the public favours encouraging individuals to change behaviour, rather than increasing fines or council spending. Three-in-five believe that making littering as socially unacceptable as drink-driving and more bins are the most effective ways of reducing littering. Only 37 per cent say the police should impose higher fines for littering, and just 18 per cent say councils should spend more money on cleaning up litter.

Other stats show that the public overwhelmingly believes drop-



■ **TIDY PROPHET: Cllr Richard Beddoe and interactive bin.**

ping litter is a disgusting habit (86 per cent) and that litter on the streets encourages other people to drop litter (83 per cent). A majority (54 per cent) would like to confront someone they saw dropping litter but would not have the nerve – only 15 per cent would do so.

Some 79 per cent agree that people are more likely to drop litter when there's no one else about, while 50 per cent agree that people are more likely to drop litter outside their own neighbourhood.

Westminster City Council is working closely with Hubbub to pioneer a new approach to tackling litter through Neat Streets, with a view to seeing what will work elsewhere in the city and the UK.

A report by the Communities and Local Government Commit-

tee in March 2015 found that fast food litter and fly-tipping in England has increased by 20 per cent in the last year, and that litter levels have not reduced for 12 years. Dealing with the problem costs taxpayers around £850m a year, demonstrating the need for new thinking on tackling litter.

The first Neat Streets installations included a street gallery of 'My Street is Your Street' posters to build a sense of pride in the area; gumdrop on-the-go bins for chewing gum; a 'talking rubbish' interactive bin and a 'Peppermint Pointillist' art installation, where people can dispose of chewing gum on crosses to reveal faces.

Cllr Richard Beddoe, Westminster City Council cabinet member for city management, said: "Litter is a scourge on our streets, and we all need to take responsibility for tackling it. The council works incredibly hard to keep the streets clean for our 240,000 residents, and the millions of visitors and businesses that populate our city every day.

"But it is right that we look at new and innovative ideas. We hope this pilot project will enable everyone to understand the challenges and show how we can work together to combat them."

Writing for the **London Weekly News** every week, London's most outspoken entrepreneur

## Charlie Pipes Up!



## We must stop the unions highjacking the country

WE all love a bit of nostalgia. In our superfast world of the internet, Apple watches and 'streaming' TV shows and movies, we all like to reminisce when things were a little simpler when information came from books and magazines, clocks only told the time and we were spoilt by the addition of a fourth TV channel.

However, looking at the past through rose-tinted glasses doesn't mean things were better – unless of course you're a union official.

These guys not only love the past but clearly live in it too. We escaped a rail strike last weekend, but it looks like it'll be on the cards for 10<sup>th</sup> June when Network Rail workers who are members RMT Union evoke the spirit of the 70s and 80s with a 24-hour walk out.

A Bank Holiday strike would have been bad enough, but slap bang in the middle of the working week will just bring chaos to the thousands of people trying to get to work to earn an honest day's pay and have a negative impact on the nation's enterprising businesses.

I was due to welcome a long-standing supplier of mine from the North who was planning a day in the capital meeting a number of his London-based clients, but the strike is causing him to scrap his trip.

Seeing as we're being a little nostalgic, to paraphrase the 1950s US TV series, Naked City, 'There are eight million stories in the city, this was just one of them'. From everyday commuters to those travelling by train to seal a deal, it won't only be the train wheels that grind to a halt that day.

Thankfully, the government intends to change the law so a small number of trade union leaders can't hijack the country by calling strikes that their members don't feel strongly enough about to even cast their ballot.

However, while I was full of praise for

the new Business Secretary last week for his attack on red tape, I think Sajid Javid, is being over generous, setting the bar at merely 40 per cent of members being required to vote in favour of a strike.

And I certainly can't see how any right thinking person would agree that it is reasonable for the economy to be dumped into turmoil by any number less than 40 per cent of those affected, in what is a straight yes-no vote.

### Two horse race

This isn't the same as the General Election where there are multiple parties competing. In this type of race there are only two horses in the running - the one with the red jockey pushing for a strike and the one with the blue rider trying to keep his charge in the race!

Personally I believe that it would be fairer to have the level set at 50 per cent of all members to make a strike legal,

but Mr Javid's further requirement for a minimum turnout of 50 per cent will at least mean that a majority of members must voice their opinion.

For too long union leaders have been able to mobilise a militant few to do their bidding, calling strikes on shamefully low levels of support. Now at least the economy will be safe from this kind of manipulation. And if union members can't be bothered to cast their vote then it's probably not an issue worth putting businesses and the wider economy at risk over!

What I suspect has happened over the years is that the many decent, non-militant members, who prefer to get on with their jobs, and have no philosophical axe to grind, have given up voting, as they know that a combination of the apathy of many and the zealotry of a few, means there's no point in them having their say.

I think what the unions are afraid of here is that under these new rules they run the real risk of calling a vote on strike action and losing it to the blue runner, in a straight two horse race. Now that would be embarrassing!

For too long union leaders have been able to mobilise a militant few to do their bidding, calling strikes on shamefully low levels of support

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# Fox Primary girls are national champions

FOX Primary School's pupils and staff are celebrating after winning the Girls National Primary School Table Tennis Championships.

Two years ago the Kensington school girls' team won the silver medal, this year their continued dedication and hard work paid off when they saw off their South London rivals, Barnes Primary in a closely contested final to capture the prestigious gold medal.

It would be wrong to pick out any one player for special praise as it was an all-round great team performance, Laura Wharton, Eva Periera, Rose Bourdier, Nadia Zoppos and Valentina Weinstein all played above and beyond their abilities and never really looked in danger of winning anything but gold. That is not to say the matches were easy, but rather that the team spirit and mental focus was exemplary throughout the day.

It had been a long and thrilling journey for Fox school.

First, the team had to progress via the central London qualification process, which they did in style. Secondly, came qualification at the All London Jack Petchey Championships where, despite losing their number one player at the semi-final stage, they still managed to qualify in second place behind Barnes Primary.

Then, came the highly exacting process of getting through the South of England Championships in Bristol. This they managed to do in the very last game of the tournament.

All was then set to take on the other three top table tennis primary schools teams in the country: Cliffdale Primary from Lincolnshire, Great Wood Primary from Lancashire and their old South London sparring partners from Barnes.



■ **WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS!** The Fox Primary School table tennis team

Of course any victory in any sporting arena has as much to do with what happens in the weeks, months and years leading up to victory as to what happens on the day.

Fox's table tennis club have had the unswerving support over many years of headteacher Paul Cotter and sports co-ordinator Ollie Millett. Credit also goes to the school's child welfare office Maggie Curran, who in addition to her regular duties stepped in on the day and provided what proved to be decisive coaching interventions.

Thanks must also go to former Fox parents, Anna Lisa, Amanda and Susan for setting up the extra high level training sessions at the Fox school.

Without these sessions it is doubtful the Year 6 girls would have reached their all-conquering abilities.

Finally the players were very ably supported by their parents and carers who tirelessly got their youngsters to where they need to be, whilst providing great support to the whole team throughout the many tournaments.

Cllr Emma Will, Cabinet Member for Education, said: "Fox school is renowned for its teaching and learning programmes now it can add the National Table Tennis Championships to its long list of achievements. Hearty congratulations to Laura, Eva, Rose, Nadia and Valentina."



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## Top marks for Hammersmith primary

A HAMMERSMITH primary school has been given the top Ofsted rating after impressing the inspectors with its improvement since their last visit.

St Paul's CofE Primary School in Worldge Street, was given an 'outstanding' rating in its latest inspection.

Inspectors praised staff for their 'unwavering determination to drive up standards' since the school was rated as 'requires improvement' last time and was supported 'very effectively' by the local authority, diocese and governing body to do this.

They praised all aspects of the school and said pupils make 'excellent progress' across

reading, writing and mathematics as well as other subjects.

They added: "Pupils behave very well in lessons and around the school. They very much enjoy learning and the school gives them excellent care and support."

Cllr Sue Macmillan, cabinet member for Children and Education, said: "This excellent result is testament to the hard work of staff and pupils."

"Everyone involved should be proud."

Inspectors said: "Pupils are challenged exceptionally well to make very fast progress throughout the school."

They praised the school's strong leadership among staff,

the quality of the curriculum, the rigorous and supportive governance, and the 'exceptional growth of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development'.

Headteacher Clare Fletcher, said: "We are absolutely thrilled with this outcome which is testament to the genuine dedication and unrelenting hard work of the staff team, children and governors."

"Since receiving the final report, we have enjoyed wonderful feedback from parents, carers and members of the community and the sense of pride in our school is palpable. We look forward to building upon this success."

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Cars being towed away because people are not aware of new road tax rules

SIR - I am deeply concerned that buyers of used cars are being fined or having their cars towed away because they are not aware of new rules on tax discs introduced by the DVLA in October last year.

While the new rules mean that you no longer need to display a paper tax disc on your windscreen, not everyone realises that road tax now expires the moment a car is sold and is not transferable. This means a car buyer needs to tax the vehicle themselves or make sure the

dealer taxes it for them.

The DVLA claim they tried to inform the public but it has been widely reported that 8,000 cars are being clamped per month now compared to 5,000 before the changes.

If you are buying a car, please make sure you tax your car from the moment you own it or you may find yourself facing a fine or even having your car towed away.

Syed Kamall, MEP for London

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## LONDON WEEKLY NEWS

## Third Bupa Westminster Mile



■ **HEART AND SOLE:** Runners of all ages set off to play their part in the third Bupa Westminster Mile on Sunday, May 24.



■ **FUN RUNNING:** Families enjoy a flavour of the big event, where speed is not everything.



■ **GOLDEN GREATS:** Former middle-distance ace Steve Cram is reunited with GB Olympians.



■ **FOCUS AND COURAGE:** Wheelchair racers are a study in concentration.

**A**DAM Clarke and Racheal Bamford were crowned British Athletics road mile champions at the third Bupa Westminster Mile as David Weir broke the wheelchair world record for the third year in a row.

The event, on Sunday, May 24, marked 30 years since Steve Cram set the British track mile record of 3:46.32 at the Dream Mile in Oslo in July 1985, and Cram himself was on hand to present the Roger Bannister trophy to Clarke, who was just outside the four-minute barrier in 4:05.

The Aldershot, Farnham and District athlete outsprinted Jonny Hay and Ben Coldrey, plus race favourite James Brewer, to win an eight-man finish in front of Buckingham Palace.

"It was a really good run with the likes of Johnny Hay and James Brewer involved," said the 24-year-old after winning his first ever mile race. "I know they are fast, so I had to make a move early on and just after halfway I went for it. But I needed some money in the bank for the last 100m as they have strong kicks."

Bamford also won a close race, coming from behind to take the women's title in the final stretch from Charlene Thomas and Hannah England. England took this title two years ago and it looked like this would be a straight battle between her and Thomas before Bamford surged forward late on.

"I enjoyed the race," said the Leeds City steeplechaser, who was sixth here last year. "I'm quite strong at the moment because my steeplechase training has been going well. I love the Westminster Mile, that's why I

# The mile of smiles

came back, and it was a great race to win."

Bamford received the Diane Leather trophy from Cram, who had just watched Weir smash his own world wheelchair record, beating his arch rival Marcel Hug in a dog-fight finish.

The six-times London Marathon winner flew around the course, which skirts St James's Park in the heart of Westminster, to cross the line on Spur Road in 3:03, just outside the sub-three minute barrier he's been targeting for three years.

"Nearly, so nearly," said Weir when he came to a stop at the base of Victoria Memorial at the top of The Mall. It's great to get the world record again, but it's a shame not to get sub-three. I'm getting closer and closer."

Former Paralympic rower Martyna Snopce retained the women's wheelchair crown in 4:45, while Kieran Wood from Cambridge took the junior men's under 20 race in 4:20, just ahead of Scott Halstead. Holly Parker of Enfield Harriers won the junior women's under 20 race from Niamh Bridson Hubbard in 5:03.

The six-hour festival also included junior wheelchair events for men and women, plus six British Athletics age-group races for boys and girls aged from 11 to 17, all of them presented with a medal bearing an image of Cram crossing the finish line in 1985.

The BBC presenter had earlier turned back the clock 30

years when he won a special race featuring more than 80 former British Olympians in 5:40.

Cram set off at the head of a large field containing not just track and field athletes, but former rowers, fencers and cyclists, all sent on their way by 98-year-old Bill Lucas, Britain's oldest Olympian and a veteran of the 1948 Games in London when he ran 5000m.

"I loved it," said Cram, who beat Seoul 1988 middle distance runner Shireen Bailey to the line. "It was amazing seeing loads of people I haven't seen for years."

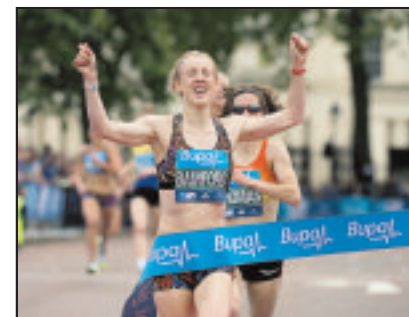
The last Olympian home was Alan Newton, an 85-year-old former cyclist who competed at the 1952 Olympics in Helsinki. Newton finished under an impromptu guard of honour made of hockey sticks and foam fencing swords as the rest of the Olympian field chaperoned him to the line.

Among the day's 33 races were numerous non-championship events for club athletes, joggers, and family members of all sizes, shapes and ages.

Mums, dads, kids and grandparents were among the waves of family racers to wash through the finish zone, some jogging together hand-in-hand, some coming one-by-one to meet each other in front of Buckingham Palace. Some with pushchairs, some in football tops, some dressed as their favourite super-heroes. All of them had smiles on their faces.



■ **MEN'S WINNER:** Adam Clarke breaks the tape to claim first place in the Westminster Mile.



■ **WOMEN'S WINNER:** Racheal Bamford comes home to become road mile champion.



■ **CRAM-TASTIC:** Steve Cram wins a special race featuring former Olympians.



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# UNDER THE WESTWAY

## Volunteers bolster community spirit

**Angela McConville, Chief Executive at the Westway Trust, salutes the many people who give up their time to help others and contribute to the important community work of the organisation**

**T**O mark Volunteers Week 2015, Westway Trust is holding a thank-you evening to celebrate the fantastic contribution hundreds of volunteers make to the life and work of the Trust each year.

In particular, we will be shining a spotlight on more than 60 local people who make a regular volunteering contribution to Westway Trust, every week.

Volunteer gardeners, volun-

teer teaching assistants, volunteer event co-ordinators – these people are central to Westway Trust's charity projects – in education, sport, health and good stewardship of the estate.

Why do people volunteer to support the work and mission of the Trust? Their motivations are diverse.

For many local people we provide a safe, welcoming environment in which they can learn new skills, explore career options and improve their English language.

Building friendships and social networks is another motivation. The opportunity to be part of Team Westway – to learn alongside the Westway Trust's staff team and to benefit from one-to-one mentoring – is also valued.

Many volunteers want to get involved and make a genuine contribution to the community

because they care passionately about the many projects and initiatives that the Westway Trust delivers.

In the last 12 months, more than 350 people volunteered their time and skills to support the Trust. What a phenomenal statement of community ownership that is. Many of these people help us stage our annual calendar of community events, such as our summer and Christmas festivals.

Last year we had our best year ever in terms of involving local people in events – almost 25,000 visits to our events programme were achieved in the year and that was made possible by the energy and commitment of almost 300 of our events volunteers.

From blowing balloons to serving mulled wine, painting children's faces and manning stalls –

each contribution plays an important part in making the programme a great success.

We have been delighted to work in partnership with the Volunteer Centre and RBKC Community Engagement Team in our recruitment of volunteers to these events.

Our trustees at Westway are also volunteers and they give hundreds of hours each year to making sure that Westway Trust is governed properly and has the right plans in place to deliver on its charitable objectives, both today and into the future.

One of our current trustees who has lived in the borough for many years and worked as the chief executive of a local voluntary organisation, has – now she has retired – given up even more of her time to work on our Westway Learning programmes as a volunteer teaching assistant.

The opportunity for our learners to benefit from her skills and experience is immense. It is the extraordinary commitment and passion of volunteers such as these that make the Westway Trust, and the estate we manage, a very special place.

In the year ahead we intend to extend our volunteer gardening programme, create new youth volunteering opportunities and continue to grow our Team Westway events volunteers.

People looking find out more or get involved as a volunteer at Westway, are welcome at our stall at the Volunteers' Fair on Wednesday, June 3rd, which will take place under the canopy at Westway.

One of our young apprentices is on hand to give more information and help people to become involved with the work of the Trust.

## Bank workers are a bonus for the birds

BIG-HEARTED bank staff swapped spreadsheets for spades to help improve Westway Trust's community wildlife gardens.

More than 30 staff from Lloyds rolled up their sleeves for a volunteering day clearing overgrown vegetation, planting native species, digging drains and making 32 bird-boxes out of recycled pallets. The bird-boxes will be home to great tits, blue tits and sparrows next spring.

The volunteers also resurfaced a picnic area so it can be used as a learning space by local children. The wildlife gardens are outside Westway Sports Centre in Crowthorne Road, North Kensington.

The volunteers' efforts will help with Westway Trust's goal to make the gardens an outdoor classroom for schools, teaching children about native plant and animal species. The volunteers work in financial planning at Lloyds Banking Group's offices in central London.

Audrey Maillot and Priya Premkumar from Lloyds said they particularly enjoyed making bird boxes.

Audrey said: "It's great that we've been learning new skills and helping the community."

Priya added: "We're loving it.



■ **BOXING CLEVER:** Westway Trust estate gardener John Broadbent with the Lloyds Banking Group volunteers and some of the bird-boxes they made.

It's definitely making muscles I didn't know I had ache – it's better than going to the gym!"

Westway Trust's Community Gardening Co-ordinator, Annie Cartwright, said the volunteers had done a terrific job. "They have been really helpful. On a day like this when we have so many willing hands we can do big tasks and just blast it."

Westway Trust's community wildlife gardens are open for the public to enjoy.

The initiative known as Give & Gain is the UK's largest na-

tional day of employee volunteering and nationally 7,000 Lloyds Banking Group employees supported it.

The Trust's volunteering programmes are a key part of its work to enable economic wellbeing and opportunity in the local community. In the last year more than 350 people volunteered in childcare and gardening, as teaching assistants and receptionists at supplementary schools, and in support of Westway Presents arts and community events.



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FOR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS

# London



# WEEKLY News

ISSUE 27

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Thursday, June 4th 2015

## Capital prepares for the grandest of birthday celebrations



LWN

ROYAL  
SPECIAL

■ SPECTACULAR: London's greatest display of pomp and ceremony, Trooping the Colour, is now just a few days away.

# Let the show begin!

By Geoff Baker

IT would make a great postcard, much better than Beefeaters at the Tower – the sight of more than 1,000 Guardsmen standing in the shower wearing only their bearskins that are covered in soap suds.

It may be apocryphal, but that is said to be one of the more unusual preparations that will be going on in barracks all over London next Friday night as the capital gets ready for the world's greatest birthday party.

Even if all leave is not cancelled for the night, hundreds of Guardsmen will be saying, "Sorry, I can't come out; I'm washing my bear."

Sadly, no photograph of this tradi-

tion appears to exist. But the rumour persists that it goes on – that in order to look spic and span for The Queen's official birthday, Guardsmen are advised to shampoo their bearskins in the shower.

Apparently, all 18 inches of the stack of fur of the black bear can only best be kept looking sleek and glossy if it is given the once over with Head & Shoulders and then carefully blow-dried and combed to give it the perfect finish.

The Fellini-esque scene is just one of the tiny details that goes into preparing for Trooping the Colour, London's most fantastic scene of pomp and ceremony. Others include Guardsmen with new boots being told to take three days and "four to five" tins of shoe polish to buff and

TURN to page 14

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# ROYAL LONDON

## Countdown to greatest display of pomp and ceremony



■ **BIRTHDAY SALUTE:** Military might, tradition and history will lead the salute to The Queen.

### Capital day out to see Trooping The Colour

FROM page 13

buff again until the Garrison Sergeant-Major can see his face in the toe caps.

Another is learning to “faint in formation”. There is almost always a fainter at Trooping The Colour, as you’d expect when young men are ordered to stand for hours in the mid-day sun in thick, heavy uniforms with a 2lb hat covering most of the top of their face.

But whilst collapsing from the heat is tolerated – even though Guardsmen are advised to drink up to five litres of water beforehand to try ward it off – it is considered very bad form to just go weak at the knees like somebody’s giddy aunt.

No, for the finest fighting troops in the world, falling over flat on your face is the expected order of behaviour.

Comrades are encouraged to “wedge” a suspected swooner, shuffling up tight against him in formation to hold him up with the pressure of their shoulders and hips. But if wedging fails, there is to be no regimentally-embarrassing knee-buckling or dropping the rifle, you drop like a Guard not like a ninny.

“You have to faint to attention,” says one former officer of the day, “you topple over face first whilst still clutching your rifle, even if it costs you a broken nose”.

There is almost always some incident of peripheral diversion at Trooping The Colour. In 1950 a colonel was thrown from his horse and two Guardsmen fainted. On another occasion a Guardsman was bowled over not by the heat but by an officer’s steed backing up into him. One year, some sharp scuffling away by officers had to be conducted after a deposit, said to have been from a corgi – although that blame may be apocryphal too – was left on the parade ground.

Activists, knowing that the event draws massive media and therefore easy publicity, are frequently drawn to the occasion. In 2007 the Fathers 4 Justice group saw a number of their supporters arrested for demonstrating in an ill-advised protest – the British people very much dislike their ceremonies having any sort of suckerfish disruption – and the year before that celebrity supporters of the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals alerted news desks that they would be pulling their tired old stunt of going naked (they didn’t, they chickened out and wore G-strings) in protest against the bearskin tradition.

Although woe betide anyone who pulls any such stunt in The Mall or around Buckingham Palace without first informing the authorities of their intention



■ **ROYAL PARADE:** Horse Guards Parade awaits.

to demonstrate – with several hundred troops each with loaded rifles and fixed bayonets in attendance, any impromptu acting up could result in the culprit coming a serious cropper.

Security, like ceremony, is taken very seriously at Trooping The Colour. The Government has banned all traffic of any aircraft over the centre of the capital below 2,500 ft on the day and any pilot attempting to flout the emergency measure will be intercepted instantly by RAF jet fighters. Rooftops along the route will be manned discreetly by police marksmen and hundreds of armed police in plain-clothes will also mingle with the crowds.

The only flights that will be permitted in the vicinity of the Palace will be the traditional fly-past by the RAF and wartime aircraft, at 1pm, and this will be provide a moment of special anticipation for many royal-watchers.

The entire Royal Family turns out on the balcony at Buckingham Palace for the fly-past as the capital wishes Her Majesty many official happy returns and many among the huge crowd that crams up around the fountain and to the Palace gates will be hoping that this year Prince George will be making his debut at the birthday salute.

Last year he was considered too young to attend, let alone comprehend the magnificence of the scene, and Princess Charlotte still may be, but their father was two when he first attended Trooping The Colour and Uncle

Harry was only one, so we shall see.

If Prince George does appear, it would be excellent if he wore a guardsman’s suit and hat like those for sale in Great Granny’s Shop at the Royal Collection (£27.90 for the whole outfit). Note to PETA, Her Majesty is totally right-on – the bearskins in her shop are 100% polyester.

His father Prince William – possibly in polyester himself since Stella McCartney has offered to make “veggie bearskins” – will be back out of paternity leave civvies and in uniform himself for the day; as Royal Colonel of the Irish Guards.

Four other Royal Colonels will form part of the ceremony – which not only marks The Queen’s birthday but also salutes lost comrades, as a regiment’s colours embody its spirit and service as well as its fallen soldiers – the Duke of Edinburgh (the Grenadier Guards), the Prince of Wales (the Welsh Guards), the Princess Royal (the Blues and Royals) and the Duke of Kent (the Scots Guards).

Her Majesty, of course, is Colonel-In-Chief of the lot.

Trooping The Colour is peerless in being the world’s greatest display of royalty, an event that everyone should witness live once in their life. It is also an incredibly complex precision event and the massed bands alone comprise more than 400 musicians.

In a nutshell, The Household Division says of it: “The Sovereign’s birthday is officially cel-

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# ROYAL LONDON

## Queen opens new session of Parliament

THE State Opening of Parliament – which took place on Wednesday, May 27 – is the most colourful event of the Parliamentary year.

It is also the most important, because it brings together the three elements of the legislature – the House of Commons, the House of Lords and The Queen. The ceremony therefore represents the Crown in Parliament.

As Head of State, it is the duty of The Queen formally to open each new session of Parliament. Her Majesty has only missed two Opening of Parliament ceremonies during her reign. The first time was in 1959 when she was pregnant with Prince Andrew and the second in 1963 when she was expecting Prince Edward.

After the introduction of the Fixed-term Parliaments Act 2011, the State Opening of Parliament takes place every year in May. Before The Queen travels to Parliament from the Palace, a detachment of The Queen's Body Guard of the Yeomen of the Guard searches the cellars of the Houses of Parliament. This dates back to the Gunpowder Plot of 1605, when Guy Fawkes was arrested whilst preparing to blow up Parliament.



■ **CONSTITUTIONAL ROLE:** The Queen opened the new session of Parliament on Wednesday, May 27.

## Welcome to the world's greatest birthday party

FROM opposite page

celebrated by the ceremony of Trooping the Colour. This impressive display of pageantry takes place by her personal troops, the Household Division, on Horse Guards Parade, with Her Majesty the Queen herself attending and taking the salute.

"Over 1400 officers and men are on parade, together with two hundred horses; over four hundred musicians from ten bands and corps of drums march and play as one. Some 113 words of command are given by the Officer in Command of the Parade. The parade route extends from Buckingham Palace along The Mall to Horse Guards Parade, Whitehall and back again.

During the ceremony, The Queen is greeted by a Royal salute and carries out an inspection of the troops.

"After the massed bands have performed a musical 'troop', the escorted Regimental Colour is carried down the ranks. The Foot Guards and the Household Cavalry then march past Her Majesty, and The King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, rank past.

"The Queen rides in a carriage back to Buckingham Palace at the head of her Guards, before taking the salute at the Palace from a dais. The troops then return to barracks and Her

Majesty joins other members of the Royal Family on the palace balcony for a fly-past by the Royal Air Force."

The Trooping itself is an equally peerless display of brilliant drill by the Guards, perhaps never more so than when, as Escort to the Colour, the massed bands perform their unique anti-clockwise "spinwheel" manoeuvre. This, a 90-degree turn in restricted space, is performed while playing the slow march "Escort to the Colour".

This feat – which is largely individual and instinctive and during which any fainting would be inappropriate – is the responsibility of the Garrison Sergeant Major.

"A wheel is not an easy manoeuvre with even a small body of troops, and with a block of 400 men the normal wheel is impossible," he says.

"The massed band therefore pivots on its own centre, so that certain outer ranks and files march long distances in a hurry while the centre and inner ranks loiter with extreme intent, or merely mark time.

"Yet others not only step sideways but backwards as well. This highly complex movement is called a spin-wheel, the details of which can be found in no drill book or manual of ceremonial.

"Its complexity defies description, and if the truth were known, many of the participants know not whither they go or, on arrival, how they got there.

"The spin-wheel is almost an art form and each performance of it, although similar in essentials, is different in detail. Most of the performers are adjusting their actions to suit the needs of the spin-wheel of the moment, having adjusted their movements quite otherwise on other occasions."

Put that in your twerking and smoke it.

This year it will be the turn of the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards to troop the Colour, although the fine occasion will also be a special event for the Grenadier Guards, who 200 years ago won distinction and thereby the right to wear the bearskin for their action at the Battle of Waterloo.

This year, Trooping the Colour will be Saturday, June 13th. The events start at 10am and the fly-past will be at 1pm.

If you're going, the best places to stand are in The Mall up to Constitution Hill or on the edge of St James's Park overlooking Horse Guards.

The authorities advise queuing from 9am, but locals say more like from 8am to get a good look at the very best birthday party in the world.

## Diary dates and engagements

### WHERE TO SEE YOUR FAVOURITE ROYAL

FULL details of future and recent events in the ever-busy diaries of the many members of The Royal Family are available from the official website [www.royal.gov.uk](http://www.royal.gov.uk) but here's the London schedule for the week ahead for Where To See A Royal.

#### ● Tuesday, June 2nd

**The Duke of Edinburgh**, as Patron, will attend receptions at St. James's Palace for young people who have reached the Gold Standard in The Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

**The Earl of Wessex**, as Patron of The National Youth Theatre of Great Britain, will hold a dinner at Buckingham Palace.

**The Countess of Wessex** will attend the National Federation of Women's Institutes Centenary Garden Party at Buckingham Palace.

**The Duke of Gloucester**, as Patron of Royal Academy Schools, will attend the Royal Academy of Arts' Annual Dinner at the Royal Academy of Arts, Burlington House, Piccadilly W1.

#### ● Wednesday, June 3rd

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will give a reception for new and retired Lord-Lieutenants at Buckingham Palace.

**The Duke of Edinburgh**, as Honorary Member of the Smeatonian Society of Civil Engineers, will attend a Dinner at One Great George Street W1.

**The Princess Royal**, as Royal Patron of the Motor Neurone Disease Association, will attend a Reception at the Royal College of Nursing, Cavendish Square W1.

#### ● Thursday, June 4th

**The Queen and the Countess of Wessex** will attend the Centenary Annual General Meeting of the National Federation of Women's Institutes at the Royal Albert Hall.

**The Queen** will hold a Garden Party to celebrate the Centenary of Blind Veterans UK at Buckingham Palace.

**The Princess Royal**, as Associate Member of the Gloucestershire Federation of Women's Institutes, will attend the National Federation of Women's Institutes Centenary Annual Meeting at the Royal Albert Hall.

**The Princess Royal**, as Patron of Hearing Link, will attend a Reception at the Tower of London.

**The Princess Royal**, as President of the Edith Cavell Centenary Appeal, will attend a Reception at the Royal College of Physicians, St Andrews Place NW1.

**The Duke of Gloucester**, as President of British Expertise, will attend a Reception at the House of Lords.

**The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester**, as Patrons of the Friends of St Paul's Cathedral, will attend a Gala Dinner in aid of the restoration of the Wren Library in St. Paul's Cathedral.

#### ● Friday, June 5th

**The Duke of Edinburgh**, as Founder and Patron of The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Association, will hold the World Fellowship 28th Anniversary Dinner at Buckingham Palace.

#### ● Monday, June 8th

**The Duke of Edinburgh** will open new art and drama facilities at Richmond Adult Community College, Parkshot, Richmond.

**The Earl of Wessex**, as Patron of The London Gardens Society, will visit gardens in the City of London.

**The Earl of Wessex**, as Trustee of The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Foundation, will attend the Twenty Eighth Anniversary Dinner at Buckingham Palace.

**The Countess of Wessex**, as Colonel in Chief of Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps, Reception at Buckingham Palace.

#### ● Tuesday, June 9th

**The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh** will attend the Gurkha 200 Reception and Pageant at the Royal Hospital Chelsea.

**The Princess Royal**, as President of Save the Children UK, will attend the Summer in the City 10th Anniversary Dinner at the Victoria and Albert Museum.

**The Duke of Gloucester** will attend a concert in aid of the International Trust for Croatian Monuments, at Holy Trinity Church, Sloane Square, London.



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## SHOWBIZ SPECIAL

## National treasure's London commitment

# Together we can save Soho says Fry

by Geoff Baker

**S**QUATTERS in Soho, marches on Parliament, rooftop protests in Denmark Street – everybody in central London seems to be furious with the developers.

There's Angry of Chelsea kicking up merry hell over Crossrail Kings Road, anarchists agitating online to brand developers as the new mother of all evils and everywhere you turn it's bash a builder. But into this class war which is actually a money war – London doesn't have a housing problem as much as it has a too many rich people problem – which threatens to see riots all over town before long, Stephen Fry has gently tossed a velvet spanner.

Developers in Soho, he says, are not the enemy.

Using the calm intellect which won him the tag of “the most intelligent man on television” from the *Radio Times*, the chairman of the Save Soho campaign has a message that must be joy to the ears of Fawn and India-Rose James, the super-rich granddaughters of Soho property magnate Paul Raymond who inherited the late strip king's massive estate.

For Fry has moved to put the sprinklers on hothead confusion after the campaign to protect small music and performing arts venues in the Square Mile risked being hijacked as part of the many anti-austerity protests which are planned in the capital this summer.

Recently Save Soho had to issue a statement disassociating itself from the March4Soho protest in Westminster, organised “against gentrification” by the Bohemians 4 Soho group with anarchists and squatters.

Now Fry has stressed that Save Soho does not want to go to barricaded street war with Soho Estates and other developers. Echoing John Lennon's insight – “but if you go carrying pictures of Chairman Mao, you ain't going to make it with anyone anyhow” – his urging is to work together rather than fight against.

“I really don't think that they are the enemies,” he said. “Soho Estates are a remarkable group. There are many other people who own properties outside of Soho who are utterly heartless and their only concern is the bottom line.

“I think Fawn and India-Rose are genuinely concerned with keeping Soho to be Soho and I hope they can see that they can be helped in this.”

There has been much fury in both the press and the social media these past six months over the development or gentrification of Soho, the closure of Madame Jojo's and the rape of Denmark Street. The hate mail against developers it has

caused has become so intense that recently Save Soho had to close the ‘contact’ section of its website because the criticisms became too angry and intense for anyone in the small campaign team to cope with.

And although most of the coverage has centred on the uproar, by comparison very little has been made of Soho Estates' plans to keep the clubs scene going. Soho Estates has pledged “a re-incarnation” of Madame Jojo's in a year's time and promises too, “the resurrection” of the famous Boulevard Theatre, home of the original *Comic Strip* show that launched Dawn French, Ade Edmondson and Eddie Izzard, which it says “will similarly provide a venue for new and emerging talents”.

Unlike others who see the threatened loss of Soho's key small clubs to be a good excuse for a brawl, Fry and Save Soho founder Tim Arnold suggest that a few hits on the peace pipe instead might better save the little venues.

“We want to be the developers' friends,” Fry told Soho Radio presenter Brent Adams. “We don't want to position ourselves as enemies who won't speak to them or who will force them not to speak to us because we're so rude. It's about coming to an accommodation with them and saying ‘Yes of course you've got to make a profit; we're not idiots, we're not children, but you can make a profit and keep the character and enhance the reputation of Soho rather than just growing it down into what the Americans call ‘croissantifying it’.”

Besides, there is a bigger problem now facing Soho's club scene than the landlords pulling the rug in order to develop premises for luxury flats for the rich young financiers from Canary Wharf who have become the latest incomers to the Square Mile's long history of immigrants.

The new threat to the small venues may not turn out to be developers, but the police and the council.

As club-owner Alex Proud has warned, many of the Wharfies now intending to move to Soho have a canary-like sensitivity to the late-night noise of the place, they don't want to spend £2 million on a flat in Wardour Street and be kept awake all night by the din from the club below.

Sounding the alarm about what he excellently-calls “steps towards Soho becoming Disneyland for grown-ups”, Proud warns of “the rich dullards who think they've bought themselves cool and then promptly start complaining about noise”.

He explained: “Many of the old venues with their layers of history have 3.0 am licences. Developers don't like these.



■ **THOUGHTFUL CAMPAIGNER:** Stephen Fry belives in mature debate and compromise to govern the future development of Soho

PICTURE: Jonathan Hordle/\_REXShutterstock

Gentrifiers don't like these. The dull conservative stooges in Westminster council don't like them.

“There's a strong feeling amongst the licensed trade that Westminster's policy is to get rid of as many late licences as possible – and this means that incidents which in the past would have resulted in a warning now tend to result in outright closure.”

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe, chief of The Met, recently alarmed club owners by suggesting that one way to tackle the late-night rows and punch-ups on the streets of Britain/London/and in particu-

lar Soho would be to cut the number of licensed pubs and clubs.

Alex Proud called this “one of the most jaw-droppingly-stupid suggestions I've heard in a long time”, as a club owner might be expected to. But he added a warning about the writing being on the wall.

“All this is part of London's weird war on nightlife. Every other major city in the developed world uses its nightlife as a key selling point and often enthusiastically encourages it. Virtually no other cities have our restrictive licensing laws or enforce them with such zeal. Yet, the police, and local authorities have been gunning for London's pubs and clubs for the last five years.

“Why? Well, the only answer I can really come up with is that it benefits greedy developers who want to turn them into luxury apartments.”

It may be that Sir Bernard has allies for his argument on Westminster Council. Its West End ward has three, all Conservative, councillors representing Soho, of whom one, Councillor Paul Church, already indicates on his website that he favours a toning down of Stephen Fry calls Soho's “unique raffish Bohemian charm”.

On Councillor Church's site it says: “As a local resident, Paul completely understands the blight of noise in the West End both from late night revellers and

unlicensed pedicabs with blurring stereotypes – an issue Paul has recently spoken out against. Paul believes that the lives of the decent, hard-working majority of residents should not be spoiled by the actions of a wayward few. He has already started to work with local Police and intends to take a tough line on anti-social behaviour, crime and drugs.”

But Soho has always been “wayward” and loud, seeking out the revelry has been the point of coming here for decades, in not centuries. If the hidden intention is now to bunny mother the area with noise prevention and ASBOs so that bankers can get uninterrupted kip before catching the 15-minute breakfast ride to Canary Wharf, then the “pipe down” brigade will become a far bigger threat to the clubs and night scene than the landlords – unless the incomers can be taught by the locals the rules of living here.

“The new is not in any way the enemy,” Stephen Fry told Brent Adams.

“Soho is a very contemporary place and it always will be. It's not supposed to be a location of history or a museum. It's supposed to be somewhere vibrant and exciting and new, always, but nonetheless with character and an original personality that is definitely Soho.

“People do come in from everywhere, nobody is expected to be born here to be a Soho person, you acquire it, you are given a passport to the kingdom of Bohemia by coming here”.

Tolerance is and long has been the watchword of Soho; all races, genders and sorts have sought out Soho as a sanctuary in the capital which, in many of its other parts, would not put up with “such behaviour”.

The fear now is that the rich accountants in grey suits could finally cause the end of such tolerance because they are not rock and roll enough to live agreeably in an area that they sought out for its nightlife but then want to change to suit their Ovaltine hour.

But a club-closing, noise-abating, reveller-arresting association of wealthy new residents could cause the ruination for Soho – for without its night-life its main income will be lost and it will become another Kensington or St John's Wood.

“There has always been that sense in Soho that no matter who you are, or what income you have or what sexuality you are, you'll be welcome and will feel safe and free to express yourself and have a good time,” said Fry. “It's a matter of just being vigilant that there are not too many changes to that; there aren't too many buildings that alter their use so that only the very rich can afford them”.

And the role of Save Soho in this is not for its members to chain themselves to railings nor, as Stephen puts it, “shriek at landowners to try shame them”, but to be consultants for the entertainment business to the development business so that the neon lights and the music can stay on. The many actors, artists, musicians, residents and writers who make up Save Soho are the experts on the place, providing the “local knowledge” which they urge should be heard if Soho is to be saved from the big tone down.

As Tim Arnold perceptively puts it: “If Stephen and I wanted to build our own theatre in Soho it would be a bit strange if we decided to do it without talking to any property developers or architects.

“However, the developers of Soho do not have people on their teams who are in the entertainment world and who actually know about performance space and affordability for the customers. We'd like to help and assist them by offering the rich experience of our supporters.”

Since Save Soho was launched late last year Fry has received many emails from his friends in New York, where a couple of decades ago the authorities similarly decided to clean up the city, in particular Times Square and that other SoHo.

“They've all said, don't go the way we did,” said Fry. “It just becomes very, very expensive.”



# LWN The reality royal

**Rugby legend and World Cup winner Mike Tindall has become an unlikely reality TV star since retiring from the game. The 36-year-old explains why he took the celebrity path and why he's used to drinking his own urine**

MIKE Tindall reached a crossroads last July when he announced he was hanging up his boots after a 15 year career at the very top of rugby union. A hugely popular figure at both of his former clubs Bath and Gloucester, as part of the 2003 England World Cup winning squad the former national team captain has attained legendary status beyond the sport.

So it was with some surprise that upon putting away his gum shield for the final time Tindall decided to throw himself into the realm of reality TV - not the most obvious choice of career move for somebody that married into the Royal Family.

But the husband of Zara Philips - the Queen's granddaughter - has got stuck into the reality sphere like it was a scrum against the All Blacks. Not once but twice the 36-year-old has put himself through the mill for our entertainment - first with The Jump, the Davina McCall-hosted winter sports competition and then with Bear Grylls: Mission Survival, an intense endurance journey in the rainforests of Costa Rica.

Going from spending time with Johnny Wilkinson and Martin Johnson to Jamelia and Amy Childs seems like a culture shock, but Tindall took it in his considerable stride. The opportunities, Tindall says, "just fell into my lap at the perfect time" post retirement last summer and was a useful tool



■ MIKE Tindall, patron of Rugby for Heroes, with his all-star team at his annual celebrity golf day to raise money for the charity

in whiling away the hours he would normally spend on the rugby pitch.

"The Bear Grylls thing was around the time of the start of the season and it was a way of taking my mind off anything else and refocus and just get out there. With The Jump, when it was on last year, I said I'd love to do that just for the skiing side of it and when they asked me, I didn't have to play rugby it was a bit of a no brainer. I wanted to do it and it fell into my lap at the perfect time."

But there was more to it than giving him purpose - besides, he and Zara have a young daughter to look after. Ever the fierce competitor, self-improvement was also a factor.

"For me to do them they had to have the element of a challenge. They had to have something that I felt they would get out of it."

With Mission Survival, through the epic 12-day survival test Tindall wanted to push his physical and mental wellbeing to the limit.

"I always said, if you think about a rugby player being a manly, deal with anything sort of guy, a tough guy, I thought it was a perfect opportunity to find out if I am, whether I am durable in the true sense of the word. That was the challenge. In the lead up, to prepare myself I tried to imagine the worst that it could possibly be. Luckily we didn't get there!"

Drinking your own urine, as contestants on Mission Survival had to do, would be considered many people's definition of "worst it could possibly be." Yet Tindall emerged during a time when such activities were standard as rugby dressing room camaraderie - no, really - and he managed to do it with worrying ease.

"Unfortunately initiations are old school rugby and they don't happen so much nowadays. But initiations definitely could have involved that in the past! And I have to admit that it wasn't the first time... Bear did look at me a bit strangely when I said "are we drinking our own or are we drinking other people's?"

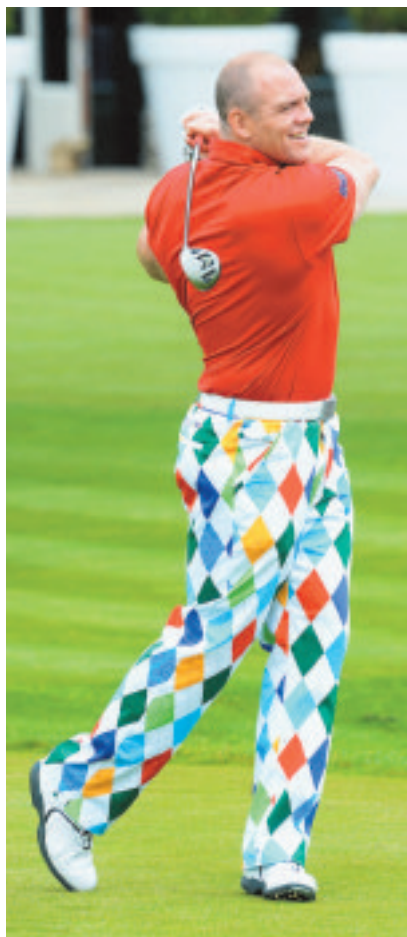
Overall, Tindall enjoyed his foray into light entertainment, but is unsure if he'll be making another reality TV appearance. He has other interests to consider, such as media performances and his charity work, which does so much good for military veterans.

Tindall is patron of Rugby for Heroes and through his annual celebrity golf day has raised over £100,000 to help former army officers to get back to normal civilian life.

At this year's event at the Grove Hotel in Hertfordshire, playing in bright multi-coloured trousers, Tindall finished well off the pace and after coming second in both the Jump and Mission Survival he jokes that his days of winning might have ended with his rugby career.

"I'm getting used to that now. I've been lucky in the past at winning finals. But I can't win any outside of rugby unfortunately!"

[www.rugbyforheroes.org.uk](http://www.rugbyforheroes.org.uk)



## Where To Find Your New Local Newspaper

### London News WEEKLY pick up points

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Sainsbury's Store	38 Stratton Street	Mayfair	W1J 8LT
Sainsbury's Store	15-17 Tottenham Court Road	Central London	W1T 1BJ
Co-op	504-506 Harrow Road	Paddington	W9 3QA
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### Westminster & Pimlico NEWS pick up points

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Tesco Metro	18-28 Warwick Way	Westminster	SW1V 1RX
Tesco Classic Metro	Dean Street	London	W1D 3RS
Tesco Classic Metro	10-16 Goodge Street	London	W1T 2QB
Tesco Metro	90-100 Edgware Road	Westminster	W2 2EA
Co-op	19-21 Store Street	Westminster	WC1E 7DB
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Tesco Super Store	West Cromwell Road	Kensington	W14 6PB
Kensington Central Library	Philimore Walk	Kensington	W8 7RX
North Kensington Library	108 Ladbroke Grove	Kensington	W11 1PZ
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The Tabernacle, Notting Hill	35 Powis Square	Notting Hill	W11 2AY
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Sainsbury's Store	2-3 Kings Mall	Kings Mall	W6 0PZ
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# WINE & DINE

The food and  
drink page for  
West London



by Kate Whiting

**L**ILY Simpson and Rob Hobson are the best advert for their new cookbook, *The Detox Kitchen Bible*, arriving for our interview fresh-faced and sparkly eyed.

But they're not meeting me to preach about going wheat, dairy and sugar-free: they're hoping to share the message that cutting down on those foods just 80 per cent of the time will give you more energy - and help you to live healthily without the need for crash diets.

"Our detox is not as you'd imagine, it's not a strict regime, it's a lifestyle change," says Lily, who's multitasking as she speaks, breastfeeding her six-month-old son Finley and sipping on a hot chocolate ("half milk, half water"), while her dog Rudy sitting obediently at her feet.

"We're saying, 'If you eat really well 80 per cent of the time, then 20 per cent of the time, you can go out and have some drinks, indulge and have whatever you want'. Once you understand that and listen to your body, you don't need to worry, because you know what to cook that makes you feel good."

"It's really important that people become connected again with what they're eating."

The book is split roughly in two parts, with delicious, healthy recipes from Simpson making up the first half, which all come with a list of the health conditions they can be useful for, and the second part is nutrition advice from Hobson, with suggested detox plans designed to help your heart, bones, digestive system, mind, weight and immunity, among other things.

Nutritionist Hobson says the best approach is to embrace healthy eating as a whole lifestyle, rather than a diet, and go

**Lily Simpson and Rob Hobson, pictured are part of the team behind The Detox Kitchen Deli, which can be found on the fifth floor of Harvey Nichols in Knightsbridge and at Kingley Street, W1. They have launched a new cookbook which shows that you don't have to completely change your eating habits to live a little healthier.**

slowly.

"The way that people end up not doing anything is they just try and do it all at once. Take small steps. Take one recipe a night and start with cooking something fresh," he says. "If you're eating lots of sugar, don't give it up straight away, just eat one biscuit instead of two."

"We're not telling anyone to do anything we don't do. I like a glass of wine in the evenings, but I know that most of the time, my food is spot on, I exercise, I try and get as much sleep as I can, you've got to try and find a balance and it's different for everybody."

Simpson is all about the balance, too. "I eat butter on toast for breakfast, I have a really filling lunch and a healthy dinner and then I probably have a glass of wine and a chocolate, so it's kind of that balance," she explains.

"We hate the word 'diet' - I've never been on a diet in my life. I tried to do a juice one once, where you have juice all day, and by about 10 o'clock, I was like, 'I need something to chew', I'm not into all that strange stuff."

Simpson, who set up the London-based meal delivery service Detox Kitchen ([detoxkitchen.co.uk](http://detoxkitchen.co.uk)) with Hobson three years ago, whose fans include Elle McPherson and Sophie Dahl, knows from her own experience just how much what she eats impacts on how she feels - and looks.

Having grown up eating home-cooked meals, she let her healthy habits slide when she moved away from home. "When I moved to London, I got IBS and I had stomach ulcers, which played

havoc with my skin," she recalls. "It was really when I started understanding that very strong link between food and how you feel that things started to change."

"Beetroot makes my stomach feel dodgy because it triggers my IBS, so I tried to cut down and not eat as much. And if I have a breakout on my skin, I know exactly what to do. I totally cut out dairy and I try and reduce the amount of sugar in my diet."

"As soon as I start eating well again, I can think straight and feel less foggy, but a lot of people don't understand how great they can feel just by eating good food. I have days where I eat rubbish food, but I know how to make myself feel better."

Sugar has been demonised recently, but Hobson believes it's "not bad" in small quantities - and make sure you enjoy it while you're eating it.

"I say to clients, if you're going to have some sugar, don't do that thing where you give yourself a tiny little bit of cake and keep going back into the fridge and eating it really quickly."

"Take a piece, put it on a plate, sit down with it, enjoy it, and then you're done. I had a client who had to put the rest of the cake and the biscuits in the bin and put washing up liquid on them so she couldn't go back to them."

"Some of the unhealthiest people I've seen are walking around 'health food' shops. They follow really strict diets, they've eradicated everything, they're living on supplements, they look so tired, they've just got it wrong."



## MARK HIX'S RECIPE OF THE WEEK

### Vinaigrette of spring vegetables

*Serves 4*

**Y**OU can use any vegetables for this, depending on what's available. I must say, although I don't grow any spring vegetables - just leaves and herbs - there is something satisfying about harvesting, cooking and serving something so simple with a tasty vinaigrette.

You can serve this hot, cold or at room temperature, as a starter or as a vegetable side dish - up to you.

**80g podded weight of fresh peas**  
**100g podded weight of fresh broad beans**  
**8-10 young or baby leeks, trimmed**  
**Any other seasonal vegetables such as asparagus, runner beans, etc**

**1tbsp chopped chervil**

**For the vinaigrette**

**1tbsp good-quality tarragon vinegar**

**2tsp Tewkesbury or Dijon mustard**

**2tbsp rapeseed or olive oil**

**2tbsp vegetable or corn oil**

**Salt and freshly ground black pepper**

For the vinaigrette, put all of the ingredients into a clean bottle or jar. Give them a good shake and leave to infuse.

Cook the peas in boiling salted water with a little sugar for 3-4 minutes or until tender.

Cook the broad beans in boiling salted water for 2-3 minutes until tender; drain.

Cook any other vegetables for as long as it takes them to become tender, but still with a little crunch, and drain them.

Mix all of the vegetables, chervil and vinaigrette while they are still warm and season with salt and pepper. Serve with some good crusty bread and butter.







# TALK OF THE TOWN

MUSIC ★ THEATRE ★ REVIEWS

*The entertainment scene across London*

## Jodie set to be a star on Sunday

**T**V and West End darling Jodie Prenger is to take on one of Andrew Lloyd Webber's most famous and sought after female roles in a new production of *Tell Me on Sunday*.

Prenger who is currently wowing audiences as the gun toting Calamity Jane on the hugely successful nationwide tour, will take the one-woman show around the country next year.

*Tell Me On A Sunday* charts the romantic misadventures of a young English girl in New York in the heady days of the 1980s. Brimming with optimism, she seeks success and love.

But as she weaves her way through the maze of the city and her own anxieties, frustrations and heartaches, she begins to wonder whether she's been looking for love in all the wrong places.

This iconic musical, with lyrics by Don Black, features *Unexpected Song*, the chart-topping *Take That Look Off Your Face* and the title track *Tell Me on A Sunday* in this one-act show originally con-

ceived for television. The star turn has been performed by many legendary musical theatre stars, including Marti Webb, Sarah Brightman, Denise Van Outen and Kerry Ellis. This new production for 2016 will include an intimate chat with Jodie about life, love and playing the role of Emma.

Prenger is probably best known for winning the role of Nancy in Cameron Mackintosh's West End production of *Oliver!* through the BBC television series *I'd Do Anything*. Often seen on the small screen, Jodie is also a regular presenter on BBC Radio 2.

*Tell Me On A Sunday* will open on Wednesday, March 2, 2016, following a season at the Watermill Theatre from Thursday, January 28 to Saturday, February 20, 2016.

For all venues and details take a look at the dedicated website: [www.tellmeontour.co.uk](http://www.tellmeontour.co.uk)



By **NICKY SWEETLAND**  
LWN Theatre Critic



■ **JUDY PRENGER**, is to star in *Tell Me On A Sunday* after recently taking the lead role as Calamity Jane, inset left.



## West End Heroes gala keeps the Ball rolling

**TWO-TIME** Olivier Award winner and multi-platinum recording artist Michael Ball this week handed over a cheque for £78,243.01 to the charity Help For Heroes. The substantial sum is from the proceeds of the 2014 West End Heroes gala which Ball hosted at the Dominion Theatre.

The event, which saw the country's top military musicians unite with West End performers in a dazzling showcase, will return to the Dominion Theatre in October, and this time with a fund raising target of £100,000.

Ball said: "I want to say a massive personal thank-you to everyone who took part and those who came to see West End Heroes. We are so proud of the money raised and what we achieved – we had the best time doing the show, and it was a great night!"

Returning to form the centrepiece of the gala and under the baton of Squadron Leader Piers Morrell will be The Central Band of the Royal Air Force, which is widely regarded as one of the finest military bands



■ **MICHAEL BALL** and friend with a cheque fit for heroes.

in the UK. It incorporates the celebrated RAF Squadronaires Big Band.

Help for Heroes offers comprehensive support to those who have suffered life-changing injuries and illnesses after serving our country. For some, recovery can be swift – for others, it is a life-long journey with changing needs along the way. Help for Heroes aims to support this process, however long or short it may be.

Bryn Parry, co-founder and chief executive of Help for Heroes, said: "We'd like to thank

West End Heroes for their dedication towards raising such an amazing amount for Help for Heroes over the past two years. We're thrilled to work with West End Heroes again in 2015 and look forward to another fantastic event at the same time as raising a significant amount of money to help our injured servicemen and women and their families."

West End Heroes will take place at The Dominion Theatre on Sunday, October 4. For more details visit [www.west-endheroes.com](http://www.west-endheroes.com)

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\* estimate based on national figures





# TALK OF THE TOWN ★ *The entertainment scene across London*

## Taxi! Davro enjoys ride in live theatre

By Nicky Sweetland

**C**OMEDIAN and impressionist Bobby Davro is to star in a new production of Simon Block's *Not A Game For Boys* at The King's Head Theatre.

The play, which was first performed at the Royal Court in 1995, will see Davro playing a London taxi driver who spends much of his spare time involved in a local table tennis league with two fellow cabbies. The complexities of their lives and interaction with each other makes for an interesting insight into the world of hobby sportsmen.

I caught up with Bobby, who told me about his most recent foray into theatre.

"We're three weeks into rehearsal now and it's been a difficult schedule for me simply because I've been doing gigs and my normal stuff but we're on schedule and it's good. It's quite dark. It's about three taxi drivers who have different lives and come together once a week to play table tennis. They're in a league and I play a character called Eric whose life is very complicated because his wife is looking after his mother with dementia.

"His best friend Oscar, played by Alan Drake, is a single man who is a sage, if you like; he's worldly. Then there's Tony, Oliver Joel who is a young guy who's being pressured by his girlfriend to settle down but doesn't really want to. It's quite a deep play. It's all about the battle everyone has for their individual lives."

As the play is set in the cut-throat world of a local table tennis league I ask Bobby about his skills with the paddle.

"I don't play a bad game of table tennis. In fact we actually went down as a team the other day and we played in the local table tennis club here in Islington. We had so much fun. We were in character so it was quite strange how our characters have taken over our bodies. We've become the characters that we're playing and I have to say that my character, Eric, is very similar to me. The grumpy, middle-aged, self-obsessed kind of bloke that's so focussed on what he's got."

Bobby explains the intricacies of playing in a table tennis team and that each player has his role. be it as a blocker, pusher or hitter.

He says: "They all play a dif-



■ **BOBBY DAVRO'S latest role as a table tennis playing taxi driver is not the first foray into live theatre for the performer perhaps best known for his comedy routines.**

We've got a ping-pong table set up and the play is set in the changing room of the club. It's a very intimate little space but it really works. It's got a lovely feel to it."

Better known for his impressions and stand-up comedy, this isn't Bobby Davro's first theatrical adventure.

"I haven't done many plays over the years but I love it, so occasionally I come out and do it. The last thing I did was *Run For Your Wife*, which was a Ray Cooney farce and I very much enjoyed that. It's very, very demanding. I did a part on *EastEnders* for 14 months so that was the last thing I did as far as drama is concerned – but I like drama. There are so many elements to my life and I'm so lucky."

*Not A Game For Boys* runs from June 10th to July 5th on various dates. For more details visit [kingsheadtheatre.com](http://kingsheadtheatre.com)

ferent game and if they don't, Eric, the team captain, who's my character, gets very frustrated because it means the world to him to stay at the top of this amateur ping pong league."

The King's Head in Islington is a wonderful little venue set behind a bustling pub and allows for some great bits of diversity in the stage set-up.

Bobby explains: "We're playing it sort of in the round. They've designed the theatre in a slightly different way that's unorthodox and refreshing. It's exciting because we're surrounded by the audience.



### Chelsea Embankment

Until June 5th 2015  
200 new paintings of the iconic Embankment on show at the Osbourne Gallery, Belgravia.

### Henry V – Lion of England

Until Saturday, June 20th  
Upstairs at The Wheatsheaf pub, 25 Rathbone Place, Fitzrovia, W1. Based on 'The Life and Times of Henry the Fifth' by William Shakespeare, 'Henry V — Lion of England' strips back the famous and lengthy stage play into 75 minutes with one actor, and very few theatrical devices.

### Beating Retreat: Waterloo Remembered at Horse Guards Parade

June 10th and 11th 2015  
Dating back to the 1690s, this ceremonial musical event is a pageant of precision drill, horses, cannons and fireworks set to music. The event brings together The Massed Bands, Drums, Pipes and Corps of Drums of the Household Division with The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery and visiting military bands from around the world. For 2015, the Bands of the Troupes de Marine and the Legion Etrangere (French Foreign Legion) participate in the First World War and D-Day

### Sanubari – Portraits in Motion

June 11th to July 1st 2015, Tuesday to Sunday, 11am to 7pm. Monday, closed.  
An exhibition of photographs from the book 'Fluid Lucidity' by Nirmala Karupiah (Kuala Lumpur). Sanubari chronicles the photographic voyages of artist Nirmala Karupiah, her journey spanning two decades documenting various dance genres, mainly the classical Indian discipline Odissi, Cantonese Opera, Northern Malaysia Malay dance-drama Mak Yong and the healing rituals of Main Puteri from the state of Kelantan.

### Art Antiques London

June 12th – 18th 2015  
Albert Hall Memorial West Lawn, Kensington Gardens, SW7 (opposite the Royal Albert Hall)  
Website: [www.haughton.com](http://www.haughton.com)  
Set in the beautiful parkland of Kensington Gardens, the Fair's Pavilion is positioned next to the Albert Memorial and opposite the Royal College of Art and The Royal Albert Hall; it is the first fair to take place on the historic site of the Great Exhibition of 1851.

### Olympia International Art & Antiques Fair

18th – 28th June 2015  
Olympia National, Olympia London, Hammersmith Road, W14. Website: [www.olympia-art-antiques.com](http://www.olympia-art-antiques.com)  
Over 160 of the world's leading antiques specialist dealers will be present at the Olympia

International Art & Antiques Fair, which is now in its 43rd year. With pieces ranging from £100 to £1 million, the Fair offers the most diverse variety of high quality, vetted art, antiques and collectors' pieces than any other event in London.

### Artists at Home 52 Open Studios

June 19th to 21st  
All types of art media including painting, print making, textiles, jewellery, sculpture, pottery, bronze and photography on display in artist's own homes and studios in Chiswick, Hammersmith and Shepherd's Bush. Friday, 6-9pm, Saturday and Sunday. Meet with the artists in a relaxed setting to chat and ask questions. For more information and a list of artists taking part go to [www.artistsathome.net](http://www.artistsathome.net)

### Lunchtime Lectures

Thursday, June 25th 2015  
National Army Museum Lunchtime Lectures: The Glorious Revolution. Free lunchtime talk by Dr Ted Vallance. Also on July 23rd - The Women of Waterloo by Catriona Kennedy.

### Armenian General Benevolent Union presents 'Living Memory'

Friday June 26th 2015 (4 - 10.30pm)  
The magnificent Great Chelsea Hall is playing host to a day of artistic and cultural performances to mark The Centenary of Armenian Genocide. The event begins at 4pm, with an exhibition of paintings 'Memory is Still Alive'. At 7pm the cultural programme starts with a talk "Remembering the Armenians in Turkey Today", followed by recital, music, and dance, performed by talented Armenian artists. Admission is Free.

### Andre Rieu's 2015 Maastricht Concert at Vue Fulham Broadway

July 17th - 23rd  
The king of waltz performs in his home town joined by his magnificent Johann Strauss Orchestra.

### Buckingham Palace summer opening

August 1st to September 27th 2015  
Visit Buckingham Palace, the official London residence of the Queen, this summer. Buckingham Palace is one of the world's few remaining working royal palaces - don't miss the chance to see it. Explore the lavishly furnished State Rooms, containing some of the greatest treasures from the Royal Collection. Highlights include paintings by Rembrandt, Rubens, Vermeer and Poussin, Canaletto and Claude. Sculpture by Canova and Chantrey.

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# TALK OF THE TOWN ★ The entertainment scene across London



■ GOOD CALL: Street theatre tells a Hammersmith love story.

## Take the Square route to this compelling tale of young love

THE Lyric Hammersmith has announced its programme for the fifth year of its popular Theatre in the Square programme.

The programme of shows invites passers-by to stop and enjoy free theatre in Lyric Square. The first offering is by the Zest Theatre Company, a group that specialises in producing work for predominantly young audiences. *Boy Meets Girl* will run on Tuesday, June 9 and Wednesday, June 10 and is an interactive love story set in Hammersmith.

Toby Ealden, artistic director of Zest, explained more about the show.

"It's called *Boy Meets Girl*. It's a really simple story. Audiences can follow their story that will take place all around the theatre and in the square outside the theatre through wearing wireless headphones.

"There's no live dialogue in the show – it's all done through dance movement and visual theatre. We use what's called silent disco technology, so there are two stories that play simultaneously, one for the boy and one for the girl – and the audiences can choose which story

By Nicky Sweetland

they want to follow. For about 60 per cent of the show the two characters are separate and we get to follow their journeys through heartbreak, how you get over heartbreak and looking for love. Then both the characters and their audiences come face to face and we follow them through their journey of dating, flirting, falling in love and then ultimately breaking up at the end of that as well."

The performances will take place in the theatre square at various times over the two days, to include lunchtimes and evenings. Toby explained the format: "Each performance lasts an hour but audiences can stay for as little or as long as they want. There's 30 minutes of content that loops twice so you can follow boy for half an hour and then follow girl for the other half an hour."

The Lyric Hammersmith recently re-opened following its multi-million pound capital development project and will offer an extensive programme of free interactive theatre throughout the summer, with more shows in June to look forward, to including *Monotone Man* and *Citizen Squid*.



■ LOOKING FOR LOVE: In Hammersmith.



■ FUN WATCHING: And listening.

## Phantom's 'ghost' riders put on a show for cancer charity

CAST and crew from the West End production of *Phantom of the Opera* have successfully cycled overnight from London to Paris, raising vital funds for Macmillan Cancer Support en route.

Inspired by the loss of a much-loved theatre colleague, Melanie Oakley-Dow, who died of cancer in 2013, the team took to the road immediately after performing in both of Saturday's shows.

Cycling through the night and covering almost 400km, the group of four actors and one orchestra member reached the finishing line in the French capital, aptly located at the Paris Opera House, at 3am on Monday morning. All five riders were back at work at Her Majesty's Theatre for the 7.30pm show that same evening, after 28 hours in the saddle.

The Paris Opera House is famously the setting for the legendary musical.

In memory of Melanie, long-serving wig mistress at the London production of *Les Misérables*, the Phantom Team is hosting numerous fundraising events in 2015 for the cancer charity. From football matches to cabaret nights, cross channel cycle rides to art auctions, they



■ ALL RIDE ON THE NIGHT: the Phantom Cycle Team.

have raised over £11,000 so far.

Ryan O'Gorman, actor and team member, said of their challenge: "Cycling from London to Paris for Macmillan is one of the toughest things I've ever done, although it is without doubt one of the most fulfilling. The ride itself was a complete roller-coaster for all of us as we hit so many different weather conditions throughout the 28 hours, including mist, fog, a strong headwind and finally beaming sunshine. All this, alongside the almost 400km we had to ride, made for a big challenge.

"My constant drive to carry on was always spearheaded by the amazing support we received from friends and family back home – without them we wouldn't have succeeded. As a

team and a group of friends we got through the ride mile by mile. Watch this space for next year."

Jessica Longhurst from Macmillan's Cycling Challenge Events Team, said: "Without people like Ryan and the Phantom Cycle Team fundraising for Macmillan, we could not continue to provide cancer support – that really is the bottom line. Their London to Paris challenge has raised over £6,000 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

"With over 29,000 Londoners receiving a cancer diagnosis each year, Macmillan's support and services are in more demand than ever. Donations make up 98 per cent of our income, so we simply couldn't do what we do without the efforts of our fantastic fundraisers."

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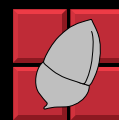
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£25,000 required for 30 days. Absolutely no risk. Genuine enquiries by email in the first instance to  
**07810 176 974**

### Accountancy/Book-keeping

**QUALIFIED ACCOUNTANT.** Small home practice. Low fees. Prompt service. 020 8677 3675

### Tuition

**CHILDREN OUT OF SCHOOL**

or educated at home

Ring Mr Coles, St Brendans

**020 7738 2455**

### Language Classes

**German & English Taught**

as a foreign language,

£25 per 60 mins.

Call Anna

**0758 884 4770**

### Articles for Sale

**BARGAINS DUE TO HOTEL CLOSURE**

**QUALITY ITEMS IN GOOD CONDITION**

e.g. Single beds £75

indestructible solid base and beech surround

Fridges £15-£60

Werzalit Maple look table tops and base £27

High backed upholstered chairs £25

call **07753 689 419**

for complete list of available items

### Bargain Buys

**GAS COOKER 'SWAN'** almost new condition, works perfectly, grill in top part of oven, white/clean/ign plus pan parts. Buyer collect SW3 area. £49.99. Tel: 020 7376 4362

### Kitchen & Bathroom (4 Sale)

**KITCHEN PINE TABLE** tile top and 4 chairs, hardly used £98. Two chairs, never used, set good as new. Solid pine. Tel: 07786 329 731

### Caravan & Camping

**Static Caravans For Sale At Camber Sands Holiday Park**



Call Charlotte 07446 111 787

**Static Caravan Clearance Sale!**

From only **£8,995** with **FREE** site fees

Camber Sands is the premier holiday park on the South East Coast open 12 months of the year.

Chalets & Lodges available too, finance available with a 10% deposit. Buy with confidence, HPI checked & fully warranty offered.

Call Charlotte today **07446 111 787**

**CARAVAN FOR SALE**  
**Camber Sands Holiday Park**

- Sleeps 6
- Beach Access
- **£5,000**
- Connection & Fees
- Finance Available

Call Luke **07950 127 697**

### Articles Wanted

**OUT OF THE FLOOR RECORDS**

25 Years in Camden NW1

**RECORDS WANTED**

**REGGAE + ALL JAMAICAN MUSIC**

(+60's, 70's Soul, Jazz, Boogie, Disco, Hip Hop, Etc.)

Forget the rest! We pay the best! Cash Waiting!

Jake **020 7485 9958 / 07961 315874**

### Domestic Appliances

**UPRIGHT BALL VACUUM CLEANER** Dyson DC24, not very old, complete, demonstrate working, moving from house to flat £65. Tel: 020 8692 8449. Could deliver.

### Fashion

**MENS SUMMER ZIP-UP JACKET** BRAND NEW, various colours and sizes. Half price £15 each or less in black. Tel: 07552 433 829

### Furniture

**SUN LOUNGER** nearly new, perfect condition, dark colour, folding £25 ono. Can arrange to deliver. Tel 020 8692 8449

**METAL CABINET** (two drawers). £5. Tel: 020 8672 0190

### Gardening Products

**HOVER MOWER FLYMO 330** electric, built in grass box 2015 model, moving from house to flat in Maidstone £75. Expensive mower when new 2015. Tel: 020 8692 8449. Could deliver.

### Mother & Baby

**PREMIUM BABYSTART PUSHCHAIR** all extras, Cosytoes raincover, shopping basket, immac condition £20. Tel: 020 8853 2899

### Sports & Leisure

**LADIES SCUBA DIVING GEAR** small, never used B.C.D. Lifejacket with H.P. inflation hose £30. Demand valve regulator and content gauge £80 used in swimming pool 2014 £100 the two. Tel: 020 8692 8449. Could deliver.

**EXCELLENT CONDITION HIPPO BAG** irons, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, pitcher, putter, good starter set £50. 020 3304 3263, m: 07748 469 166

### Tools & DIY

**NEW RECIPROCATING HEAVY DUTY SAW** by Performance Power, still in box £30 ono. Tel: 020 8692 8449. Can arrange to deliver. Tel 020 8692 8449

**NEW SKIPTON CLEAR PINE DOOR** interior, glazed door, size 1981 x 762 x 35mm £45. Mob. 07522 705 542

**ROLL OF HEAVY DUTY ROOFING FELT** £20. Tel: 020 8672 0190

**DRAPPER DRILL** used once, still in case. £30. Tel: 020 8672 0190

**BOSCH HEDGE TRIMMERS** £25. 020 8672 0190

**4 PIPE CUTTERS** £12. 020 8672 0190

Cost effective advertising that produces results

### Wanted

**WANTED : RECORDS**  
**ROCK, POP, PUNK, INDIE, REGGAE, SOUL...**  
**LP'S AND SINGLES - WHOLE COLLECTIONS WELCOME**  
**CASH PAID!**

CALL : **07956832314 / 0208 677 6907**

or Email : **vinylwanted@aol.com**

ALSO INTERESTED IN NON CHART CD COLLECTIONS

## Home Services

### Artexing & Plastering

**AJ PLASTERING**  
Reliable Service  
• No job too small  
Please call Alan  
**07597 663 838**

### Building Repairs/Alterations

**Chinese Builder**

Roofing, Brickwork, Plastering, Electricals, Carpentry, Kitchens, Interior Tiling, Driveways, Plumbing, Landscaping, Bathrooms, Shop Fitting, Decorating and Extensions, New Buildings.

No Job Too Big Or Too Small!

**07737 230 407**

**07448 568 000**

**Ace Building & Decorating Services**

Handyman Services, Electrical, Plastering, Decorating, Roofing, Gardening.

First Half Hour Service

FREE for OAP

**020 8393 6346**

**07956 230 760**

### Building

**AFFORDABLE DECORATING & PROPERTY MAINTENANCE**

Fully Insured

Family-run business

Kitchen & Bathrooms

Painting/Decorating

Flooring/Tiling

and all your building needs!

**0800 622 6889**

**07506 736 548**

Please mention this newspaper when calling advertisers

### Cleaning

**CLEANING TEAM**  
**First Choice for cleaning**

Professional, reliable, vetted and insured cleaners. Excellent rates. Outstanding value.

T: **020 8452 2900**

[www.cleaningteamservices.co.uk](http://www.cleaningteamservices.co.uk)

### Electrical Services

**DBZ Electronics**  
TV, VIDEO & HiFi REPAIRS & SERVICES  
**FREE QUOTE**  
Call SAM  
**020 3674 0508**  
**07909 660 114**  
TV, LCD, PLASMA, DVD  
HiFi, HOME CINEMA  
SYSTEMS & COMPUTERS

**AJB ELECTRICAL**  
ALL INSTALLATIONS UNDERTAKEN. QUICK, RELIABLE SERVICE.  
**GUARANTEED**  
NO JOB TOO SMALL  
NICEIC APPROVED  
**020 8694 9924**  
**07860 770 643**

### Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning

**CARPET CLEANING**

Professional reliable service

Fully insured

**07717 527 017**

**London News**

**FREE AD FORM**

**To advertise your unwanted items. Sell them in London Weekly News Series for FREE.**

Telephone Number inc. Code .....

Town .....

ADVERTISERS NAME .....

Text of advertisement (Max. 40 words) .....

.....

.....

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.....

**London Weekly News, FREE ADS**

**Sixth Floor, Yeoman House, 63 Croydon Road, Penge SE20 7TS**

## CLASSIFICATION

ANY ITEMS UNDER £50 FREE. PETS, LIVESTOCK OR FIREARMS NOT INCLUDED. ITEMS OVER £50 PLEASE CALL CLARRY:

**020 8768 4931**

PRIVATE ADVERTISERS ONLY.



## Electrical Services

**switched-on ELECTRICAL**  
All aspects of Electrical Work undertaken in a professional and reliable manner.  
Rewires, Fuse Boards, Certificates, Testing and Inspection.  
All work carried out in a professional and reliable manner.  
**07551 757 744**  
switched-on@hotmail.co.uk

## Fencing

**AFFORDABLE FENCING & LANDSCAPES PATIOS & DECKING 7 DAYS A WEEK**  
  
We will beat any written quotation  
**0800 622 6889**  
**07506 736 548**  
We will give good discounts for OAP's  
Free Estimates and Advice

## Skip Hire / Rubbish Removal

**AFFORDABLE RUBBISH CLEARANCE 7 DAYS A WEEK**  
**We will beat any quote**  
Call Tom  
**0800 622 6889**  
**07506 736 548**  
[www.moveyourrubbish.co.uk](http://www.moveyourrubbish.co.uk)

## Roofing & Guttering

**SC Roofing**  
**Fibreglass Flat Roof Specialists**  
25 years guaranteed  
Traditional felt flat roof, new tiled roofs and Upvc Fascia - Soffit and Gutter replacement  
All roof repairs undertaken. No job too small  
**07956 311 218 / 01895 770 103**  
[scroofinguxbridge.co.uk](http://scroofinguxbridge.co.uk)  
Live link references **160 ratedpeople.com/profile/sc-roofing**  
[www.scroofing@btinternet.com](http://www.scroofing@btinternet.com)

## Car Boot Sales

**ADDINGTON BOOT FAIR**  
One of the Best Fairs in the South East  
**EVERY SATURDAY**  
at Meadowcrest Farm,  
London Road, Addington,  
near West Malling, Kent ME19 5AR  
Between Wrotham and West Malling on A20  
Sellers from 6.30-10.30am, Cars £11, Large Vans £14  
**07795 967 609**  
[www.jpmaffairs.com](http://www.jpmaffairs.com)  
No selling of counterfeit goods \*As seen on TV

## Handy Man

## HANDYMAN

Do all sorts of carpentry, plumbing, electrical, painting, decorating, fitting, fixing, assembling, hanging and other specialised and general handyman jobs!  
ALL WORK IS GUARANTEED AND CARRIED OUT TO THE HIGHEST STANDARDS  
FREE ESTIMATE  
PLEASE CALL PETER:  
**07826 544 067 • 07878 078 867**

## House Clearance

**Help your Mums' and Dads' Charity's Pop-In!**  
Donate all items incl. Re-usable furniture  
Free collections  
Ring DAGE  
**020 8691 8823**

## Interior Design

**Personal service** in interior design, commercial and residential project management, planning submissions. Trustworthy, reliable and efficient.  
Please contact Charlotte on  
**0789 4664112** or email  
[charlie@cjdesign.co.uk](mailto:charlie@cjdesign.co.uk)

## Painting & Decorating

**PAINTING AND DECORATING SERVICES**  
Call Lucas for **FREE** estimate  
**07725 613 738**

## AFFORDABLE REMOVALS

House Clearance  
Furniture Bought  
All Areas Covered  
Family run since 1987

**0800 622 6889**  
**07506 736 548**

## Patios & Drives

**TLC PAVING & LANDSCAPING**  
All types  
Paving • Sandstone • Patio Design • Fencing • Tarmac  
All types of Gardening and Landscaping  
For **FREE** quote  
**07717 219 834**

## Plumbing & Heating

**BOILER HEATING PLUMBING SPECIALISTS**  
We can cover all your needs with just one call  
Boiler & Heating Repairs / Renew / Updates / Boiler Service / Power Flushing / Plumbing Repairs / Leaks / New Tanks / Ball Valves / Dripping Taps / Friendly Local Service / All Works Guaranteed  
Tel: **0203 397 9532**  
[www.firstcallplumbingandheating.co.uk](http://www.firstcallplumbingandheating.co.uk)

## Skip Hire / Rubbish Removal

## RUBBISH CLEARANCE

Flats - Houses - Gardens - Yards  
Waste - Rubbish - Anything  
We Load - Much cheaper than a skip  
[www.jtayrubbish.co.uk](http://www.jtayrubbish.co.uk)  
**07904 038 332**  
[jtay1961@gmail.com](mailto:jtay1961@gmail.com)

## Storage & Removals

**ONE PACK STOP STORE & POST**  
  
Highly secure storage facility with mailbox hire & packaging supplies  
Call **020 7498 3366** 120-170 Stewart's Rd Battersea, London SW8 4UB  
Visit [lockandleave.co.uk](http://lockandleave.co.uk) for more details

**J R MORTIMER**  
Family business for over 60 years  
Large/small removals  
Local/long distance  
Friendly & helpful service  
Free estimates  
Phone **020 8856 3982**  
[john.mortimer@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:john.mortimer@hotmail.co.uk)

**MEGA CHEAP MAN & VAN**  
£25 P/H  
Extra men £10 P/H - P/M  
Single items from £20  
Reliable, trustworthy and friendly.  
Call **07943 120 694**  
[megacheap@hotmail.com](mailto:megacheap@hotmail.com)  
[www.megacheap.biz](http://www.megacheap.biz)  
\*\*min booking of 2 hours\*\*

## Waste Clearance

**AFFORDABLE RUBBISH CLEARANCE 7 DAYS A WEEK**  
**We will beat any quote**  
Call Tom  
**0800 622 6889**  
**07506 736 548**  
[www.moveyourrubbish.co.uk](http://www.moveyourrubbish.co.uk)

Cost effective advertising that produces results

**MAN & VAN FULLY INSURED**  
From £26 per hour From £50 per hour  
Single item £35 within a 2 mile radius  
**020 8659 7373**  
**07947 994 752**  
Email: [info@storytelli.co.uk](mailto:info@storytelli.co.uk)  
Visit [storytelli.co.uk](http://storytelli.co.uk)  
Minimum Booking - 2hrs

**J R MORTIMER**  
Family business for over 60 years  
Large/small removals  
Local/long distance  
Friendly & helpful service  
Free estimates  
Phone **020 8856 3982**  
[john.mortimer@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:john.mortimer@hotmail.co.uk)

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Email: [info@storytelli.co.uk](mailto:info@storytelli.co.uk)  
Visit [storytelli.co.uk](http://storytelli.co.uk)  
Minimum Booking - 2hrs

## Washing Machine Repairs

**1st Call Washing Machine Repairs**  
Same day repair  
All work guaranteed  
Fast, Friendly Service  
All London area's covered  
Call us now  
**020 8776 5349**  
**07962 370 250**

## CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE FOR ALL ADVERTISEMENTS

Orders are accepted by the Publishers subject to the Standard Conditions agreed between the Newspaper Society and the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising. Save that:  
1. Advertisements are accepted on the conditions that (a) descriptions relating to goods are accurate and in no way contravene the provisions of the Trade Descriptions Act 1968, and the Fair Trading Act 1973, and (b) the copy complies with the British Code of Advertising Practice. Advertisements offering credit or hire facilities must conform to the Consumer Credit (Advertisements) Regulations 1980.  
2. 'Classified' Advertisers offering goods or service of a business, commercial or trade nature will, at the discretion of the Publishers, be deemed 'Trade Advertisers', and as such, must include their names in advertisements. A telephone number is an optional addition to these requirements and not an alternative.  
3. To comply with the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order 1977, Trade Advertisers must make it clear that they are selling goods in the course of business either by content, format, size or place of the advertisement or by including words such as 'trade', 'dealer', 'agent', 'wholesaler', '(T)' etc. in the advertisement.  
4. The Publishers accept no liability whatsoever for any loss or damage however caused arising out of:  
(a) Any error, inaccuracy or omission in the printing or publishing of any advertisement;  
(b) Any failure to publish an advertisement on the day / date or / days / dates specified by the advertiser; or  
(c) Any delay in forwarding or omission to forward replies to box numbers to the Advertiser.  
5. The Publishers will endeavour to publish advertisements on the day / date or / days / dates specified by the Advertiser but insertion days / dates cannot be guaranteed.  
6. Where shrinkage of advertisement occurs for whatever reasons the advertisement will be charged to the nearest full centimetre. This will NOT apply to the full-page advertisements, which remain full pages even after shrinkage.  
7. The Publishers reserve the right to reject an advertisement or to vary it in any way they deem fit, at any time before publication, whether or not the advertisement has already been accepted for publication.  
8. Whilst every effort is made to minimise errors in advertisements, mistakes do sometimes occur. Advertisers or their agents should therefore check their advertisements and inform us of any errors immediately. Responsibility cannot be accepted for more than one incorrect insertion. Typographical or minor changes, which do not affect the value of the advertisement, do not qualify for republication or allowances.  
9. All gross advertising rates (except classified listings and semi-display) are subject to and include a 0.1% Advertising Standards Board of Finance surcharge, payable by the advertisers to help finance the self-regulatory control system administered by the Advertising Standards Authority.  
10. All rates quoted are subject to VAT at the rate currently in force at the time the advertisement appears.  
11. Should the rate for advertisements be altered the price for remaining insertions shall be revised accordingly or the publishers shall have the right to cancel the unexpired portion of the order.  
12. The placing of an advertisement order will be deemed an acceptance of these conditions. Account facilities are granted at the discretion of the Company.  
13. All accounts must be settled within the terms agreed by the Company and the Customer.  
(1) Should an advertiser be in breach of the agreed terms, the publisher shall be entitled to levy a 10% surcharge on the value of the whole debt in respect of accounts with terms of less than 30 days, and any discounts or commissions that had been allowed will be reclaimed.  
(2) Regular monthly accounts that are in breach of the agreed terms will pay an interest rate of 6% above the current bank of England base rate for each month that the account is overdue and discounts or commissions that had been allowed will be reclaimed. Should legal action be required the interest will be charged in accordance with the County Court Act 1984.  
14. Where an advertiser instructs / appoints an advertising agent to act on their behalf, the advertiser will remain jointly and severally liable for payment in respect for an advertisement should the appointed agent fail to pay. For the avoidance of doubt, the agent acts for the advertiser and not for the publisher with the agent being responsible for notifying the advertiser of this liability.  
15. All queries must be notified, preferably in writing to the accounts department of the publisher within 7 days of the invoice date.  
16. All digital services are maintained in partnership with the publishers' hosting service providers. Every effort is made to ensure the continuity of these services, but some occasional technical downtime beyond the publishers control may occur. The publisher and its associated companies shall be under no liability if the production and distribution of web services is delayed or prevented by any cause beyond the control of the publisher.  
17. The Publisher may provide voucher copies for published advertisements in electronic form only subject to certain criteria. Further information is available on request.  
18. The copyright of advertisements produced wholly or partially by the Publishers belong to the Publishers. Advertisers may not reproduce such advertisements without the Publishers' consent.  
**Box Numbers**  
Boxes are open for the receipt of bona fide answers and are not available for distribution of trade canvassing matter. Original testimonials, goods, cash, cash stamps or payments of any kind must not be enclosed. A box Number and postal address are charged as part of the advertisement, i.e. Box No., centre address. There is no charge for forwarding replies. Box numbers alone are not available for use in 'Trade' advertisements, other than Employment and Business Opportunities.  
**Holiday & Travel Category**  
All advertising must contain the name of the advertiser, phone number alone are not permitted.  
**Data Protection**  
The service you have requested may require us to carry out a credit search at a credit-referencing agency, which will record the fact that a search has been made. We may need to share your information with other lenders and credit reference agencies. However, we will only use the information from these searches to make credit-granting decisions and, if necessary, for fraud prevention or tracing debtors.  
Data controller will use your information for administration and analysis. We may share your information with other Tindle Group Newspaper companies or carefully selected third parties. We, or they, may send you details of other goods and services, which may be of interest to you. The information may be provided by letter, telephone or other reasonable means of communication. Calls may be recorded or monitored for training purposes.  
Special conditions apply with regard to the advertising of adult services, which are outlined to all persons submitting such advertisements.

**TO ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS, RECRUITMENT, EDUCATION, SERVICES, FAMILY & PUBLIC NOTICES**  
**CALL 020 8768 4931**  
**OUR STAFF ARE WAITING TO TAKE YOUR CALL!**

**Honeydale Farm**  
217 Maidstone Road, Sidcup  
DA14 5AW - 07831 602277

## BOOT SALES - 2015

SUNDAYS - WEDNESDAYS - FRIDAYS - 7am  
ALSO BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY 25<sup>th</sup> MAY

£10 standard pitch - £15 large pitch  
Parking £1 - Pedestrians 50p - under 16 years free  
More details on [FACEBOOK.com/Honeydalefarm](http://FACEBOOK.com/Honeydalefarm)  
[www.honeydale.co.uk](http://www.honeydale.co.uk) (bus 233) - NO DOGS

## CAPITAL CARBOOT SALE

Indoor/Outdoor runs all year  
Every Sunday Pimlico Academy,  
Lupus Street, SW1V 3AT  
Book stall online  
Buyers £5 10.15am, £1 11.30am - 2.30pm  
[www.capitalcarboot.com](http://www.capitalcarboot.com)

## FLAMINGO PARK GIANT BOOT SALE

**Every Sunday**  
**NEW LOWER PRICES**  
Sellers 9.00am ★ Buyers 10.00am  
Buyers not allowed in before 10.00am  
Cars £12 ★ Cars with Trailers £14 ★ Vans £16  
Large Vans £18 ★ No Food or Drink Wagons  
**NO DOGS ★ Parking £1.50 ★ Licensed Bar & TV**  
Flamingo Park, A20 Sidcup By-Pass, between Queen Mary's & Five Ways London bound  
**020 8309 1012**  
[flamingoparks@aol.com](mailto:flamingoparks@aol.com)

**SMB EVENTS®**  
**GIGANTIC SUPER BOOT SALE**  
At **PEDHAM PLACE, SWANLEY BR8 8PP**  
On **Sunday 24th May and Bank Holiday Monday 25th May**  
6am - 2pm  
Full details  
[www.smbbootsales.co.uk](http://www.smbbootsales.co.uk)  
**ENQ: 01795 426 400**  
**MOB: 07920 111 904**

**BEST SATURDAY BOOT SALES & BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY 25TH MAY**  
Ark Oval Fields, Cherry Orchard Road, Croydon, CR0 6BA  
**EVERY SATURDAY FROM 8am**  
Sellers from 8am, Cars £10, Vans £15.  
V.Busy, Sell Loads, Great Public  
Buyers 9am-10am £1, after 10am 50p.  
Free Parking, Loads Bargains, V.Busy.  
Hardstanding available if field is wet.  
[www.boot-sale.com](http://www.boot-sale.com) **07929 847 405**  
[bootsalesaroundlondon](http://bootsalesaroundlondon)



# LONDON WEEKLY JOBS

Call: 0208 768 4919 Fax: 0208 776 8863 Email: [candy.brown@slp.co.uk](mailto:candy.brown@slp.co.uk)

## London Bus drivers

### RECRUITMENT OPEN DAY

Stockwell bus garage 6th June 10am-2pm

Join us on Saturday 6th June at Binfield Road SW4 6ST! As a first step to a career on the buses you must have held a full UK car driving licence for a minimum of two years. We can offer an excellent pay and benefits package in an industry that is growing every day... which means that you can have the added benefits of a job that offers both security and satisfaction.

- Full training, with pay, to gain your PCV licence.
- Guaranteed service related increases.

Bring both parts of your driving licence (photo card & paper - 6 points max), passport, NI number and proof you can work in the UK. If you are unable to come to our Open Day, for an application form please scan, download from [www.goaheadlondon.com](http://www.goaheadlondon.com) or call 0800 38 99 7 99.



**Go Ahead-London**

We're part of the  
**Go-Ahead**  
Group

**ROOF TESTER NEED-ED**  
Complete training provided, Full drivers licence required. Email: [tyler@membraneservices.co.uk](mailto:tyler@membraneservices.co.uk) for details.

### Child Care/Nursery

**VACANCY - LEVEL 3**  
for experienced  
**NURSERY NURSE**  
required for private Day  
Nursery in Brockley -  
SE4  
Close to rails/bus routes  
**020 8691 0497**

### Community Care

**CAREWORKER REQUIRED  
IN CROYDON**  
Rate of pay £8-£8.50 p/h  
Part time hours available -  
needs to be flexible  
Would suit somebody who  
wishes to be  
self employed.  
Must have CRB & 2 refs.  
Please contact Jane:  
07722238975  
Closing Date: 15 June  
2015

### OUT OF WORK?

**Join Job Seekers Club**  
**57-59 Trinity Road**  
**SW17 7SD**  
Ring Walter:  
**020 7738 2455**  
[walter.coles@btinternet.com](mailto:walter.coles@btinternet.com)

**CHARTERED  
ACCOUNTANTS IN  
FOREST HILL SE23**  
Need part-time  
Admin Assistant  
4 hours a day  
£15 per hour  
Reply to  
[sheaco105@gmail.com](mailto:sheaco105@gmail.com)

**DAY**  
AGGREGATES

require a

**YARD OPERATIVE**  
for our Greenwich depot experienced in  
general labouring duties. Forklift experience  
would be beneficial. 55 hours per week  
Monday to Saturday. Basic plus bonus.

Application form available from  
[www.daygroup.co.uk](http://www.daygroup.co.uk).

### DASL Direct Payments Support Service **Personal Care Assistant** VACANCIES

Personal Assistants needed throughout  
Lambeth to support disabled adults and  
children and older people.  
Various positions available to provide support  
with personal care, cleaning, shopping and  
accessing the community.  
Various hours available.

To view all vacancies and apply go to  
[www.disabilitylambeth.org.uk/dasl/payments](http://www.disabilitylambeth.org.uk/dasl/payments)

## TO ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS, RECRUITMENT, EDUCATION, SERVICES, FAMILY & PUBLIC NOTICES

**CALL**  
**020 8768**  
**4939**

**OUR STAFF ARE  
WAITING TO TAKE  
YOUR CALL!**

### Learning Support Assistants

### Art and Design Technology Technician

**City  
Heights**  
E-ACT ACADEMY

City Heights E-ACT Academy is a newly-established 11-18 secondary academy in  
Tulse Hill. It is part of the E-ACT Multi-Academy Trust and also has strong ties to  
the Lambeth education family.

We are looking to appoint an Art and Design Technology Technician as well as  
increase our team of Learning Support Assistants for September 2015.

We welcome applications from both experienced LSAs as well as those with  
Autistic experience to work with our ASD students.

City Heights Academy recently underwent its  
first Ofsted inspection, receiving a Good  
judgement across all categories.

If you would like to apply please visit our  
website at [www.cityheightse-actacademy.org](http://www.cityheightse-actacademy.org)  
or for further information please e-mail Ollie  
at [work@chea.org.uk](mailto:work@chea.org.uk)

Closing date: Monday 8th June



## Media Sales Executive

**South London Press (Ltd)** has been published in this area and  
been a part of the community in South London since 1865.

### AN OPPORTUNITY HAS ARISEN TO JOIN OUR BUSY SALES TEAM.

We are looking for really exceptional individuals who can become  
part of our commercial division which we are currently expanding.  
The successful candidates will have many responsibilities in this varied  
sales role, giving priority to developing new business by cold calling  
and building relationships with prospective clients.

To be successful in our business you need to have a flexible approach  
to work and be prepared to dig in and roll up your sleeves  
when the going gets a little bit tough!

A proven sales background is preferred but we are looking for  
highly motivated individuals who are keen to learn and keen to earn.  
A good command of the English language and good writing skills are most  
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**LONDON WEEKLY NEWS**

*sport*

# Two signings as clear-out begins

**THE mass clear-out and rebuilding process at QPR has begun in the wake of relegation to the second tier.**

Just days after the club dropped out of the Premier League for the second time in three years, R's moved swiftly to sign two young midfielders, Massimo Luongo and Ben Gladwin, from Swindon Town.

Veteran Clint Hill and Alejandro Faurin have been offered new deals to stay at Loftus Road this summer. The duo, whose current contracts are due to expire at the end of June, are in preliminary discussions with the club about extending their stay in W12.

Karl Henry has until June 30 to exercise his contractual option for a further year.

The club confirmed six first team players are set to leave. Brian Murphy, Richard Dunne, Rio Ferdinand, Shaun Wright-Phillips, Joey Barton and Bobby Zamora will all depart when their contracts expire at the end of this month.

In fact, 36-year-old Ferdinand, who made just 12 appearances last season as he cared for his terminally ill wife, has announced his retirement from football.

In addition, loanees Mauricio Isla, Niko Kranjcar, Eduardo Vargas and Mauro Zarate have all returned to their parent clubs.

Director of football Les Ferdinand has praised new signings Luongo and Gladwin, both 22, for spurning the advances of Premier League clubs in favour of regular first team football at Loftus



Mauricio Isla, one of numerous players leaving QPR Pic: Rob Newell/Digital South

Road.

The duo, who both signed three-year contracts last week in a reported £3.5m deal, each had opportunities to move to top-flight clubs but opted for a move to west London instead.

Ferdinand believes that shows exactly the right characteristics that QPR will require in the 2015-16 campaign: "There were big clubs courting both Mass and Ben but they've come here because they want to play and develop as players."



**LOFTUS ROAD RANGERS REVIEW**  
With Tony McDonald

"They could've easily opted to go to a Premier League club, where their playing opportunities would've probably been more limited, but they've shown a great desire to come here and wear the QPR shirt. It's that kind of hunger that we're looking for when we recruit this summer."

## Highly-rated

"They're hungry, they're excited and they're keen to show the QPR fans why they're

so highly-rated."

Ferdinand added: "We're trying to get business done early."

"We've lost a lot of players – those who are out of contract and those whose loans are up – so we want to get a head-start in the market if we can."

"This is a signal of our intent, because these two lads were in great demand from a lot of clubs, including a couple from the Premier League."

"They are both players

of great potential but they are very-much in the development stages of their careers. I know QPR fans want to see players such as Mass and Ben at the club and I ask them to give the pair support and patience as they continue to grow as players."

Having spent time playing for various non-league football teams such as AFC Wallingford, Hayes & Yeading and Windsor & Eton, Reading-born Gladwin was a latecomer to professional football when Swindon Town signed him from Marlow in November 2013.

Swindon's penalty-taker, Gladwin scored 11 times last season, with eight of the goals coming in Robins' final seven fixtures. He scored twice in their 5-5 draw with Sheffield United in last month's League One play-off semi-final before Robins were crushed 4-0 by Preston in the final.

## Versatile

The tall Gladwin is not the quickest but he is versatile, having also played as a left wing-back.

He said: "I'm really pleased and excited to be joining the club. There was interest from the Premier League but for me, personally, I think this move is a little more realistic at this stage of my career. Playing is what it's all about. Sitting on the bench is no way to improve your game."

"Chris Ramsey is a fantastic coach and I'm sure he'll improve me on the training pitch. I spoke to him earlier this week and was hugely impressed by what he

had to say and where he sees me fitting in."

Luongo is an Australian of Italian descent. In scoring six league goals for Swindon last season he underlined his ability to finish well with both feet, from close range and distance, while also displaying intelligence with the timing of runs into the penalty area.

Ferdinand and QPR head coach Chris Ramsey worked at close quarters with Luongo during his time in the Tottenham Hotspur Academy and the former is confident the Australian international midfielder will thrive under their guidance once again in W12.

"Both myself and Chris have known Mass for some time," Ferdinand told QPR's official website.

"He's a player we've always believed could play at a high level and this is an opportunity now for him to step up from League One into the Championship at a club that will give him a chance to play."

"His energy and dynamism from midfield are just what you need in the Championship."

"He's already a very good player – he was voted player of the tournament in the Asia Cup earlier this year – but there's so much more to come from him."

"He wants to learn and he wants to develop – he will only get better at QPR, I'm convinced of that."

However, there will be R's fans sceptical about the signing of young players from England's third tier rather than those of proven ability and experience. Will they be able to bridge the gap of two divisions?



**County Cricket**



**TWO NatWest T20 Blast victories, over Kent and Sussex, in the space of 24 hours have seen Middlesex bounce back in style following their opening defeat in the short-game series against Gloucestershire.**

Paul Stirling's 90 from a total of 205 for 5 was the cornerstone of their 115-run win over Kent at Lord's. His 50-ball innings included seven sixes and six fours before he was caught by Daniel Bell-Drummond off the bowling of Darren Stevens.

In reply, Kent could only manage 90 all out in 14.4 overs, with James Franklin claiming half the wickets with impressive figures of five for 21.

Eoin Morgan, back from the Indian Premier League, gave Stirling best support with 54.

Morgan was bowled first ball at Hove the next day, although the England ODI skipper did claim four catches in his side's 42-run success, having set the hosts 222 to win.

Again, Stirling shone with 88 but the outstanding performer this time was David Malan, who smashed his way to 14 fours and three maximums in racking up an unbeaten 115 from 64 deliveries.

Kyle Abbott starred with the ball, taking five wickets at a cost of just 14, including the wicket of Luke Wright – caught by Nick Compton – for 91.

Middlesex hope to further boost their T20 Blast position with two short-game encounters in the space of 24 hours. They face Hampshire at Southampton today (Thursday, 6.30pm), before meeting Glamorgan at Cardiff tomorrow (Friday, 6.30pm), ahead of the start of their next LVCC1 match against Yorkshire at Headingley on Sunday.

**SURREY maintained their unbeaten Championship start to 2015 with a narrow victory against Kent at Beckenham, where they won by three wickets.**

Zafar Ansari took four second innings wickets for just 58 in 21 overs, including five maidens, as Kent were restricted to 204 all out in 65.4 overs.

Jason Roy continued his recent good form with 60 not out in Surrey's second knock as the visitors clinched victory inside 50.1 overs with three wickets to spare to pick up 21 points.

Surrey trailed Division Two leaders Lancashire by 32 points, having played a game less, going into the start of their four-day match at The Kia Oval on Sunday.

It wasn't a happy return for Kevin Pietersen, who – playing for the first time since his career-best unbeaten 326 against Leicestershire – was caught in the slips by Paul Horton off the bowling of Kyle Jarvis after just three balls for two runs. With Kumar Sangakkara having already departed for 10, it was once again Jason Roy who caught the eye with 143 before he was out, b Jarvis ct Ashwell Prince, on Monday afternoon.

Kent turned the tables on Surrey with a 23-run victory in the NatWest T20 Blast. Chasing 193 to win, Surrey saw Sangakarra bowled for a 19-ball 34 and despite a battling 63 from Moises Henriques, the visitors fell short.

Surrey are back in T20 action at The Oval tomorrow (Friday, 6.30pm), when they entertain Essex, ahead of the start of their next LVCC2 fixture against Leicestershire, which begins at Grace Road on Sunday.



## Focus on Craven Cottage

By TONY McDONALD

# Magical memories

**FORTY years ago Fulham were still basking in the success of reaching their first – and so far only – FA Cup Final. Even though they were beaten 2-0 by London rivals West Ham United on the big day, their achievement in reaching Wembley was still worthy of celebration.**

Members of the late Alec Stock's 1975 cup final side and coaching staff recently gathered at the club's Motspur Park training ground to reminisce in interviews for Fulham's official website.

Hero John Mitchell, who scored the winning goal in the semi-final replay against Birmingham City at Maine

Road, said: "It was probably my worst goal for the club but the most important one. There were only nine seconds left to play in injury-time of extra-time. The one I scored in the first game against them (a fine left-foot volley from outside the penalty area) was one of my best for the club."

"It was like, 'Fulham at Wembley?' It was a dream for all of us. Shame we didn't close it out but we gave it a go. They were great times, lovely memories."

"You can't believe it's 40 years ago. Looking around and seeing these young lads training, we used to do the same but it was slightly different – there was plenty of mud on our feet and no green stuff to play on. We trained in parks or wherever we could."

Winger Les Barrett, who netted the sixth round winner at Carlisle United, said: "The cup run was so enjoyable and nice to get away from the league games. It was fantastic to play in front of 55,000 fans in the first semi-final (at Hillsborough). It was fantastic to belong to that team."

Right-back John Fraser said: "What a year, what a journey for all of us. It was the longest cup run in history – 11 games in all – and it will never be equalled because of the changes in the game which mean less replays."

"For me it was all about the tremendous team spirit we had at the club at that time."

Centre-half John Lacy added: "The games came thick and fast. I think one week we played four times. It was just a wonderful time for the club."

Left-back Les Strong said: "I see the other lads quite often and we all reminisce about the game, although not the cup final, of course, which I never played in! I do tell them that if I'd have played we would have won and

Alan Taylor wouldn't have scored his two goals.

"It was a great cup run – 11 games to get there and we never won at home. Every game we eventually won was played away from Craven Cottage."

Assistant coach John Collins summed up the camaraderie that existed at Fulham when he said: "I was probably involved with about 10 football clubs but this is the only one that I ever go back to. They were really top people."

**■ LASSE Vigen Christensen is the deserved winner of Fulham's online Goal of the Season award.**

Whites' fans voted his skilfully crafted effort in the 3-1 victory against Huddersfield Town at Craven Cottage on November 8 as the best from a choice of 10 goals.

The young Dane played a one-two with Hugo Rodallega on the edge of Town's penalty area, then sublimely nutmegged a central defender before deftly clipping the ball over the advancing Huddersfield keeper and into the net at the Hammersmith end.

LVG said: "It was a really special goal for me because it helped us get back in front and win the game. Also, my dad and brother were at the Cottage for the match, so I got to share it with them too."



# SPORT

Thursday, June 4th, 2015

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## Blues keen on Austin

**CHARLIE Austin has emerged as a shock transfer target for Premier League winners Chelsea.**

Blues are gearing up to a summer of transfer activity that could also see Manchester United misfit Radamel Falcao head down the M6 to west London.

But it's the opportunity to raid Queens Park Rangers for one of the Hoops' few successes in their dismal season which saw them relegated from the top flight that is so tempting and Austin is seen as a natural back-up for injury-prone Diego Costa.

It had been expected that Austin was heading to Anfield to join Liverpool. But with the Scousers in turmoil and the future of ex-Chelsea youth team coach and now Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers in doubt, Chelsea feel they can nip in and steal the striker, who is expected to make his England debut in next week's friendly against Republic of Ireland in Dublin.

Austin, 25, is a lifelong Chelsea fan and has even been pictured asking for the autograph of John Terry when he was a teenager. It's believed he would jump at the chance to stay in London and fulfil his dream of playing for his boyhood club.

Austin has made steady progress in his career, which

● By LWN reporter **Paul Lagan**  
sport@londonweeklynews.co.uk

started with non-league Poole Town after his release from Reading as a youth. Having being picked up by Swindon Town, Austin has scored goals wherever he has been. After a goal-laden stopover at Burnley, he joined QPR two years ago and scored 18 goals in a relegated side last season.

A fee of £20m will secure his signing as QPR clear the decks for life in the Championship.

### Number two striker

Chelsea are desperate to find a number two striker following the end of Didier Drogba's illustrious career in SW6 and failed Manchester United loanee Radamel Falcao is one player they are looking at should the Austin move fail. The Monaco striker hit just four goals in 29 run-outs for the Manchester side last season.

But the Colombia hit-man would welcome a chance to resurrect his career at a club who will be challenging for honours next season and who he knows will play



THIBAUT Courtois punches clear of Charlie Austin on Chelsea's last visit to QPR Pic: Rob Newell/Digital South

to his strengths – something United boss Louis Van Gaal was unable or unwilling to do.

Jose Mourinho knows that Drogba was a perfect number two to first choice Diego Costa. Their battling and aggressive styles meant there was little need to change formation. It resulted in Capital One Cup glory and another Premier League title.

At 29, Falcao has a lot to prove and could see Chelsea as his only chance to remain in the Premier League.

Monaco would prefer a simple permanent transfer but could opt to let him go on loan to the Stamford Bridge outfit, partly because his long-term fitness is a serious doubt.

But the French League club won't get anything like the £44m that United were obliged to pay had he stayed at Old Trafford.

One player whose Chelsea career could stall if either of these moves takes place is Frenchman Loic Remy.

**Chelsea have arrived in Australia for the finale of their promotional tour. They arrived in Sydney on Sunday ahead of Tuesday's game against Sydney FC (played after LWN Sport went to press).**

Jose Mourinho has revealed that three of last season's squad will miss the early preparations for the defence of their league title.

Brazil stars Willian and Filipe Luis, along with Colombia winger Juan Cuadrado, will play for their countries in the Copa America, which runs from June

## This week at STAMFORD BRIDGE



11 to July 4. The trio are missing from the post-season tour to Australia as they rest ahead of taking part in the South American tournament.

"They will miss the start of the season," confirmed Mourinho.

Cuadrado might actually be dumped by Chelsea and heading back to Italy less than six months after arriving in west London.

The winger, a £26m signing from Italian Serie A side Fiorentina in the January transfer window, has hardly played for the Premier League winners and many fans would be happy to see the back of him.

Inter Milan could offer the speed merchant an honourable way out and help boost Chelsea's coffers ahead of an expectant transfer spree in the summer.

Blues are likely to try and repeat last summer's transfer policy of selling before buying. They will try and recoup what they spent on the 27-year-old as they look to boost their centre-forward options.

One player who was expected at Stamford Bridge, Robert Green, is believed to have turned down the chance to join the champions.

The QPR goalkeeper had been earmarked as a replacement for Petr Cech, who will leave Stamford Bridge at the end of June when his contract expires.

But Green, 37, will either stay with the relegated west Londoners or, if he is to be sold to cut the wage bill, plans to go to a top flight club where he will be the number one choice.

At Stamford Bridge, Green would have had to be content to warm the bench while watching Thibaut Courtois play, his first team appearances restricted to the Capital One Cup and the early stages of the Champions League group matches.

### Other targets

But that prospect has not proved tempting enough, so Blues will turn their attention to other targets.

The club's hierarchy do not feel that youngster Jamel Blackman is quite ready yet and he may be sent out on loan again, having not played a minute of first team action while on loan at beaten Championship play-off finalists Middlesbrough last season.

To replace him, Chelsea are tracking Italian kid Gianluigi Donnarumma. The AC Milan reserve goalkeeper, 16, is highly rated and is compared to goalkeeping legend Gianluigi Buffon.

Blues will have to act quickly, with Paris St Germain, Real Madrid and Manchester United also keen on the youngster.

■ **WHO WON FULHAM'S GOAL OF THE SEASON VOTE? – page 27**



OUT AT THE TOP: Didier Drogba and John Terry lead the Premier League title celebrations

## DROGBA IS MOVING ON

**DIDIER Drogba reflected on his final appearance for Chelsea in their last home game of the season against Sunderland and said: "It was a strange feeling."**

Speaking about being carried off the pitch by his team-mates after injury curtailed his involvement on the half-hour mark, he attributed that bizarre act to his skipper.

"I think it was arranged by JT," he laughed. "We are always having fun."

But the Ivory Coast striker turned serious when asked about his departure from Stamford Bridge.

"I spoke with Jose and the board. Next season I want to have more minutes on the pitch, I want to play. I felt this season that I could still play. I just want

to enjoy before I stop.

"I did not want to leave here frustrated. I wanted to finish on the top, which I did. So we all agreed. The club also needs to be stronger next season and buy new players to compete in the Champions League.

"Plus there are young players coming through, like Dominic Solanke, Rubén Loftus-Cheek and Nathan Ake, who need to be given the chance.

"Ever since I announced my departure I have received offers from clubs on my phone. It shows I am wanted. Of course I could play in America in the MLS. I will take a few days to think about it and decide what is best for me.

"But I won't play for another side in England. No disrespect to them, there are some brilliant teams here, but I cannot share my love for this club with

another English team.

"I have great memories here. I proved that I could come back and play at a high level and I did win the league. If we had won the Champions League it would have been perfect."

Despite his advancing years, 37-year-old Drogba played 27 times in the Premier League this season, appeared in five Champions League and Carling One Cup matches, plus two FA Cup ties. Those 39 appearances brought him seven goals.

"I played enough games to make a contribution to the team. I cannot be frustrated not to play every game – it was not possible. I feel lucky," he added.

Before finalising a new deal away from The Bridge, Drogba was in a Barcelona hospital last week undergoing planned surgery to remove a metal plate from his arm.